

# **INTRODUCTION TO AREA SOURCE EMISSION INVENTORY DEVELOPMENT**

**Final Report**

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# ABBREVIATIONS AND ACRONYMS

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## ABBREVIATIONS

ACT	Alternative Control Techniques
AFS	AIRS Facility Subsystem
AIRS	Aerometric Information Retrieval System
AMS	AIRS Area and Mobile Subsystem
BBS	bulletin board system
BEA	Bureau of Economic Analysis
BID	background information document
CAAA	Clean Air Act Amendments of 1990
CAS	Chemical Abstract Services
CD-ROM	compact disc read-only memory
CE	control efficiency
CHIEF	EPA's Clearinghouse for Inventories and Emission Factors
CO	carbon monoxide
CO <sub>2</sub>	carbon dioxide
CTC	Control Technology Center
CTG	Control Techniques Guidelines
DOT	Department of Transportation
DQOs	Data Quality Objectives
EFIG	Emission Factor and Inventory Group
EIA	Energy Information Administration
EIIP	Emission Inventory Improvement Program
EIQA	Emission Inventory Quality Assurance
EPA	U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
FIRE	Factor Information Retrieval System
FTP	file transfer protocol
GIS	Geographical Information System
GPO	Government Printing Office
HAPs	hazardous air pollutants
ID	identification
L&E	Locating and Estimating
LAEEM	Landfill Air Emissions Estimation Model
MACT	maximum achievable control technology
MPO	metropolitan planning organization
MSA	metropolitan statistical area
NAPAP	National Acid Precipitation and Assessment Program
NO <sub>x</sub>	nitrogen oxides
NPDES	National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System
OAQPS	EPA's Office of Air Quality Planning and Standards

# ABBREVIATIONS AND ACRONYMS

## (CONTINUED)

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ORD	EPA's Office of Research and Development
PM	particulate matter
POTW	publicly owned treatment works
PSD	Prevention of Significant Deterioration
QA	quality assurance
QC	quality control
RE	rule effectiveness
ROP	rate of progress
RP	rule penetration
SAF	seasonal activity factor
SAMS	SIP air pollutant inventory management system
SARA	Superfund Amendments and Reauthorization Act
SCC	source classification code
SIC	standard industrial classification
SIMS	Surface Impoundment Modeling System
SIP	State Implementation Plan
SSCD	Stationary Source Compliance Division, now Office of Enforcement and Compliance (OECA)
TRIS	Toxic Release Inventory System
TSD	Technical Support Documents
TSDF	treatment, storage, and disposal facility
U.S.	United States
USDA	U.S. Department of Agriculture
VMT	vehicle miles traveled
VOCs	volatile organic compounds
XATEF	Crosswalk/Air Toxic Emission Factor



# 1

## INTRODUCTION

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Emissions from area sources are an important component of regional air pollution inventories. With the passage of the Clean Air Act Amendments (CAAA) in November 1990, the need for specific and standardized procedures for the preparation of area source inventories has increased. Over the years, the United States (U.S.) Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Office of Air Quality Planning and Standards (OAQPS) has established several standard procedures for the preparation of State Implementation Plan (SIP) emission inventories. The Emission Inventory Improvement Program's (EIIP's) Area Source Committee has sought to update and expand the EPA guidance through the development of this guidance document. The objectives of Volume III are to:

- Establish standard procedures for the preparation of area source emission inventories;
- Present preferred and alternative methods for estimating emissions from selected area source categories; and
- Describe new and innovative estimation methods in addition to methods that have been commonly used.

### 1.1 OVERVIEW OF VOLUME

This first chapter in this volume describes the process of planning and implementing an area source inventory. Fundamental emission estimation approaches for area sources as well as data management, quality assurance, and documentation requirements are described. Subsequent chapters present preferred and alternative methods for specific area source categories, and include new and innovative estimation methods whenever they are available. Methods chapters in this volume describe and recommend procedures for estimating emissions from an area source process group. Each methodology chapter is divided into eight sections.

In this chapter, Section 1 outlines the contents of the chapter and defines the area source category. Section 2 describes the planning process involved in developing an inventory. Section 3 provides an overview of available emission estimation approaches. Section 4 provides details on how to make adjustments to the emission estimates, and Section 5 discusses data management. Section 6 discusses the quality and uncertainty associated with each method. Section 7 is the reference section.

### 1.2 DEFINITION OF AREA SOURCES

An area source may be defined as a collection of similar emission units within a geographic area. Commonly, area sources have been defined at the county level, and most area source methods are designed to estimate area source emissions at the county level. However, any specified area (e.g., city, town, or census division) could be used to define an area source. User-defined areas such as grid cells or polygons could also be used.

Area sources collectively represent individual sources that are small and numerous, and that have not been inventoried as specific point, mobile, or biogenic sources. Individual sources are typically grouped with other like sources into area source categories. These source categories are grouped in such a way that they can be estimated collectively using one methodology. For example, gasoline stations and dry cleaning establishments are often treated as area sources. The main reason not to treat them as point sources is that the effort required to gather data and estimate emissions for each individual facility is very great although emissions per facility are generally small. For these sources, the distinction between point and area is usually defined by a cutoff point typically based on annual emissions. SIP ozone inventories, for example, define volatile organic compound (VOC) point sources as individual facilities emitting more than 10 tons of VOCs per year. Emissions from smaller facilities are treated as an area-source group.

Another area source category has no analog in the point source inventory. These are true area-wide sources. Pesticide use and commercial/consumer product use are examples of this source type. The boundaries of the individual activities associated with these sources are often hard to determine or are, at best, arbitrary. Even within a point source facility, some activities occur that are more easily treated as area source emissions. Some emissions associated with surface coating operations such as equipment cleaning, for example, can be more practically estimated using area source methods even though other surface coating emissions may be reported as part of the point source inventory.

The main distinction between point and area sources is the methodology used to estimate emissions. Point sources are inventoried individually, and area sources are inventoried collectively. While all stationary sources could be treated as either point sources or area sources, for practical reasons some cutoff is usually set to distinguish between them. The end use of the inventory, the desired accuracy of the emissions, and the resources available for inventory development all affect where that cutoff is set. This volume provides guidance for area source emissions estimation methods for many common area source processes.

The term "process" will be used here to name a function that produces emissions. Area sources include the following broad groups of processes:

- Organic solvent utilization;
- Stationary fuel combustion;

- Material storage and distribution;
- Waste treatment and disposal;
- Miscellaneous industrial manufacturing operations; and
- Miscellaneous area sources (agricultural/forest burning, structure fires, mining or construction, for example).

Each of these broad groups of processes contain a number of more specific groups that share similar emission processes and emission estimation methods.

Although mobile and biogenic sources could be inventoried as area sources, specialized methods have been developed for these categories. These methods are described in EIIP Volumes IV and V, respectively.

Finally, in the first edition of this volume, ozone precursors and the criteria pollutant particulate matter (PM) are emphasized. Where it is possible, emission factors or speciation profiles for other criteria pollutants, hazardous air pollutants (HAPs), and greenhouse gases are included. However, the lack of emission factors or speciation profiles for other pollutants in these methodologies should not be construed to mean that a source does not emit those pollutants.

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# 2

## INVENTORY PLANNING

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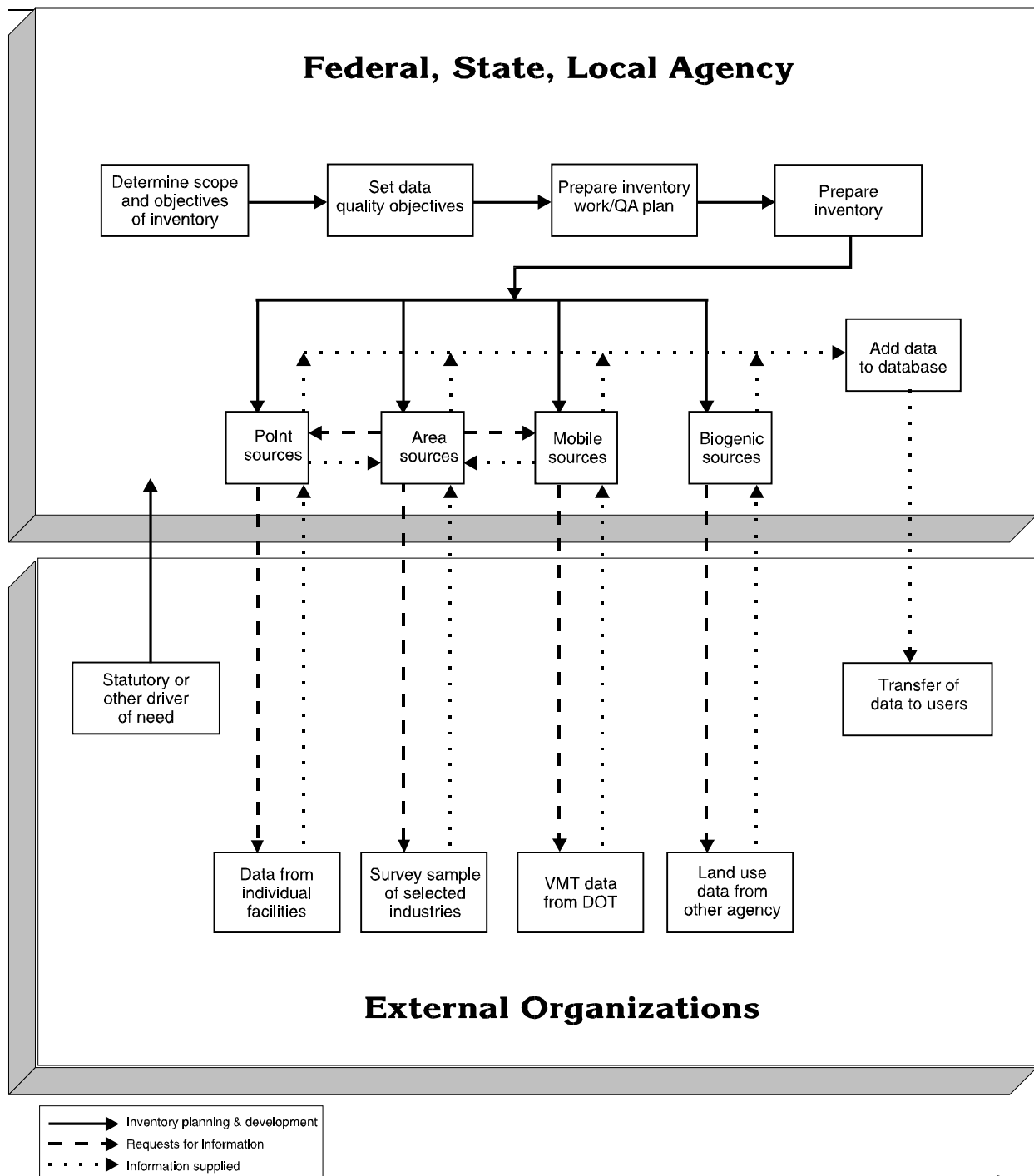
Thorough planning at the beginning of the inventory development process is essential for the efficient development of sound emissions inventories. An essential part of the area source inventory planning process is to coordinate complementary point, mobile, and biogenic inventory activities to ensure that overall inventory requirements are met. The overall role of planning is discussed in some detail in Volume I of this series; the role of planning in the quality assurance (QA) program is described in Volume VI (Chapter 2). This section concentrates on issues relevant to area source inventories.

Figure 1.2-1 provides an overview of inventory planning and information flow at a typical agency. Note that the area source inventory group has more interactions with other groups than any other inventory group. Therefore, it is essential that the area source inventory team:

- Identify other departments or agencies that need to be contacted for inventory information;
- Define the role that the departments or agencies will have, and communicate their role clearly to them before work begins;
- Ensure that the other departments or agencies are aware of procedural and documentation requirements before work begins; and
- Identify contact people in each department.

The flow chart emphasizes the importance of good communication both among members of the inventory staff as well as between different agencies and individuals. Careful planning will facilitate good communication. The activities associated with the planning process can be classified into five general groups:

- Defining the scope of the inventory including the pollutants, geographic boundaries, sources, and end uses;
- Planning the quality assurance and control activities and documenting them in a QA plan;



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**FIGURE 1.2-1. COMMUNICATION AND INFORMATION SHARING DURING INVENTORY PREPARATION**

- Choosing the appropriate methods for calculating emissions and identifying the data needed;
- Identifying the appropriate types and comprehensiveness of the documentation and preparing an inventory work plan; and
- Developing a plan for collecting and managing the data.

Many of these activities are performed by personnel outside of the area source inventory group or are provided by others at the beginning of inventory development. Specific area source inventory concerns within each of these groups are described in the remainder of this section.

## 2.1 DEFINING THE SCOPE

The overall inventory planning process should have resulted in the definition of the end uses for the data, the data quality objectives (DQOs) for the pollutants of interest, the geographic area to be inventoried, and the appropriate spatial and temporal resolutions of the data. The next steps in defining the area source inventory scope are to identify source categories to be inventoried and to ensure that the area source inventory will completely cover sources that are not being inventoried as point, mobile, and biogenic sources. Then the sources that will be included in the inventory should be prioritized to facilitate efficient allocation of resources.

The process of determining which area sources to include is to:

- Compile a comprehensive and exhaustive list of sources from guidance documents, other inventories, business directories, EPA guidance, and any other information on emissions activities in the inventory area;
- Prioritize the list based on the expected magnitude of emissions or some other measure of importance;
- Review the list carefully and eliminate any sources that are not relevant or are insignificant sources in the inventory region; and
- Define and develop a good understanding of the process and industries that make up the source.

Table 1.2-1 gives an example list of potential area source categories for a state's ozone precursor inventory. Early in the process, the inventory preparers should eliminate any sources that are not found within the inventory area. For example, volcanoes and geysers are rarely of concern in most states. However, it is not always possible to determine the applicability of a source without some research. The initial list should, therefore, be as comprehensive as possible so that no source is overlooked.

**TABLE 1.2-1**  
**POTENTIAL AREA SOURCES OF OZONE PRECURSOR EMISSIONS**

Area Source	VOC	NO <sub>x</sub>	CO
Adhesive Application (Commercial/Industrial)	X		
Agricultural/Slash Burning	X	X	X
Aircraft Refueling	X		
Aircraft/Rocket Engine Firing and Testing	X	X	X
Architectural Surface Coatings	X		
Asphalt Pipe Coating	X	X	X
Asphalt Roofing	X	X	X
Asphalt Use	X	X	X
Barge, Railcar, Tank Car, and Drum Cleaning	X		
Breweries	X		
Catastrophic Releases	X		
Charcoal Grilling	X	X	X
Commercial Bakeries	X		
Commercial/Consumer Solvents Use	X		
Construction	X		
Cooling Towers	X		
Distilleries	X		
Dry Cleaning Operations	X		
Firefighter Training	X	X	X
Forest Fires	X	X	X
Fresh and Salt Water	X	X	X
Gasoline Distribution	X		
Grain Elevators	X		
Hospital Sterilizers	X		



**TABLE 1.2-1****POTENTIAL AREA SOURCES OF OZONE PRECURSOR EMISSIONS**

<b>Area Source</b>	<b>VOC</b>	<b>NO<sub>x</sub></b>	<b>CO</b>
In-process Fuel Use	X	X	X
Industrial Surface Coatings	X		
Leaking Underground Storage Tanks	X		
Livestock Production	X		
Municipal Landfills	X		
On-site Incineration	X	X	X
Open Burning	X	X	X
Orchard Heaters	X	X	X
Pesticides Application	X		
Petroleum Vessel Loading/Unloading	X		
Publicly Owned Treatment Works (POTWs)	X		
Repair Shops (Automobile and Other Welding Operations)	X	X	X
Small Industrial Process Sources	X	X	X
Small Stationary Source Fuel Combustion	X	X	X
Solvent Reclamation	X		
Structure Fires	X	X	X
Superfund Sites	X		
Surface Cleaning (Degreasing)	X		
Surface Impoundments	X		
Traffic Markings	X		
Treatment, Storage, and Disposal Facilities (TSDFs)	X		
Volcanoes, Geysers, and Geothermal Activity	X	X	X
Wineries	X		

Sources should be prioritized based on their importance in the inventory. The agency's resources should be allocated preferentially to the sources that are most important for meeting the inventory objectives. The sources can be prioritized by checking previous or other agencies' inventories to identify the largest-emitting area sources. Alternatively, the end-users may specify the sources that are most important to them. High-priority sources will include those that are:

- Known or inferred significant contributors;
- Regulated sources;
- Sources under consideration for future regulation;
- Sources of specific, targeted pollutants (e.g., photochemically reactive VOCs); and
- Sources most likely to impact human health.

If the source list is prioritized on the basis of the largest area-source emitters, information from a previous inventory may be used. An example of a prioritized list is shown in Example 1.2-1.

## 2.2 THE QA PROGRAM

Before any area source emission calculations take place, data collection, data handling, emission reporting, and documentation procedures should be carefully planned. Volume VI of this series devotes a chapter to general QA issues in planning and documentation of inventories. This section will focus on the planning issues, including QA planning, that specifically pertain to area source inventories.

An essential component of planning is the development of a QA plan that specifies all QA and quality control (QC) procedures to be followed in preparing the inventory. Early in the planning process, the area source inventory developers may be asked to specify estimation methods or QC procedures that will ensure that the inventory meets its DQOs. The agency should also include a discussion in the QA plan that addresses how QC checks will be used for the different emissions estimation methods. The inventory documentation should also clearly describe the QA and QC procedures, checks, and results. QA activities for a particular emissions estimation method may include a detailed review of the data sources, documentation of procedures, and the development of specific QC checks, such as verifying emissions calculations. Examples of QC checks can be found in Chapter 3 of *EIIP Quality Assurance Procedures* (Volume VI) and in Section 6 of this chapter.

The best possible emissions estimation method to use for a particular source can vary

Example 1.2-1

Based on summaries of data submitted for the CAAA-mandated 1990 SIP VOC inventories, the following area sources reported in the Aerometric Information Retrieval System (AIRS) Area and Mobile Subsystem (AMS) are responsible for 90 percent of the VOCs from area sources:

- Architectural surface coating
- Gasoline service stations
- Consumer solvents
- Degreasing
- Auto refinishing
- Commercial pesticide application
- Industrial surface coating
- Graphic arts
- Dry cleaning
- Traffic marking
- Residential fuel use
- Open burning
- Managed burning and forest wildfires

Many of the above categories have subcategories that contribute to the total.

depending on the source category and local conditions. Within each source category, several estimation methods and emission factors may be available. The agency should identify in the inventory work plan the procedures it will employ to ensure that the methods and emission factors used are the best choice considering the DQOs, the constraints on the inventory, and the priority of the source. The agency should identify the requirements for each method, including time frame, funds, data, and the availability of experienced personnel available for inventory preparation.

In planning the QA/QC program for area sources, the following elements should be considered:

- Ensure that double counting does not occur;
- Determine if temporal adjustment to emissions were done appropriately;
- Determine how the peak seasons for the inventory pollutants were defined; and

- Determine how emissions will be projected and the projection period, including end year and intermediate years for projection inventories.

Double counting is an especially important issue for area sources. It is caused by overlaps between inventoried area source categories, or overlaps between area source and point source categories. Double counting leads to inaccuracies in the final inventory and should be avoided.

The inventory work plan needs to identify and eliminate potential double counting of emissions with the following steps:

- Identify categories that have a point source component. The area source activity must be adjusted to account for point source activity in order to avoid double counting emissions; and
- Identify potential overlap among area source categories and document how to avoid it.

The QA plan should include procedures to ensure that these specified steps were done correctly.

## 2.3 EMISSION ESTIMATION METHODS

Emission estimation methods should be determined for each source during the planning stage. The choice of methods will be based on a number of factors, including agency resources, source category priority, and the information needs of the inventory. The preferred methods specified in this volume will yield a higher-quality estimate of emissions, yet not exceed an average state's capability in terms of resources and staff expertise. These methods should be used when anticipating a control regulation for a source, when a source is in some way ranked as a high priority, or when a specific local characteristic would skew the results obtained from an alternative method. In contrast, alternative methods usually will yield lower-quality estimates of emissions, but will be within any state's capability to perform. These methods are best used for source categories that are not highly prioritized and for which controls are not anticipated.

For each area source category, the rationale for the method used should be stated in the work plan. This can be as simple as stating that the preferred method from EIIP Area Source Preferred and Alternative Methods was used. More explanation is warranted if the method used deviates from the preferred method. If alternative emission factors or activity data are available, the reason for using the factors or data chosen should be stated in the work plan. Similarly, any assumptions used in developing the activity data or emission factors should

also be clearly stated.

Area sources subject to regulatory controls should be identified in the inventory planning process so that the appropriate control information will be collected. Control information may include the portion of the category affected by the regulation (rule penetration), the type of control, the amount of emissions that are controlled (control efficiency), and the estimated effectiveness of the control (rule effectiveness). Controls are discussed further in Section 4 of this chapter.

## **2.4 DOCUMENTATION**

Documentation is an integral part of an emissions inventory, and is of critical importance for QA/QC activities. All inventory documentation should fulfill some basic requirements. The guiding principle is reproducibility. It should be possible for anyone reading the document to reproduce the results. Complete and well-organized documentation will result in a more reliable and technically defensible inventory. Internal review of the written documentation of an inventory's data sources and procedures by an agency's QA and technical personnel will uncover errors in assumptions, calculations, or methods.

More information on the role of QA/QC review of inventory documentation can be found in *Quality Assurance Procedures* (Volume IV) of this series. General guidance on documentation is given in Volume I. Area source inventories probably rely on more diverse types of data sources than any other type of inventory. It is very important that all sources be thoroughly documented, including databases or information from other agencies.

Reporting requirements for inventory data are usually specified by the agency or regulation requiring the inventory. In general, the data used to develop the input variables should be supplied if at all possible. For example, where employment in several standard industrial classification (SIC) Codes is summed to produce the activity parameter, the original employment data by SIC Code should be shown in an appendix unless prohibited by the size of the data set or confidentiality issues. Alternatively, if the data were derived from a published data set, the source should be unambiguously referenced (supplying page and table numbers, if necessary). All conversion factors used should be explicitly stated.

If models are used in any part of the calculations, the input data used for the model should be provided. Any statistical analyses should also be clearly documented; the complete data set used and the output from the statistical analysis should be provided. Similarly, survey results should be provided in as much detail as possible along with, at a minimum, the survey questionnaire, the number of facilities surveyed, the percentage responding, and some descriptive statistics of the results.

Sufficient information should be given to document the completeness of the area source inventory. Categories excluded should be specified, and the reasons for their exclusion stated. Some explanation of the process used to identify source categories also must be provided.

In addition to text explaining the process used to develop the inventory, sample calculations should be provided. This is particularly important for complicated calculations or if several steps were required to develop the estimates.

Full referencing of all sources of data and assumptions is part of reproducibility. The sources of all data, methods, and assumptions should be fully documented. If the source is a person at a government agency, trade group, or other organization, that person's name, affiliation, and the date of the contact should be documented, at a minimum. Reports and other documents should be referenced by author (if known), year, title of document, publishing agency, and location. Documents published by most government agencies usually have an identifying number that should be included.

## **2.5 DATA COLLECTION/MANAGEMENT**

To some extent, overall data management decisions are made by personnel who specialize in data consolidation and transfer, and the final repository of the area source data may not be under the control of the area source team. However, collection and management of data that will ultimately become part of the area source inventory are usually under the control of the area sources staff. The following should be considered in planning data collection and management for an area source inventory:

- Determine the role of existing inventory data and ensure that any previously omitted data and sources have been identified;
- Select data collection methods that are most appropriate to the estimation methods; and
- Review overall inventory data management system requirements to ensure compatibility.

An important planning consideration is whether and to what extent information contained in existing emissions inventories can be used. Existing inventories should be examined to determine whether the appropriate emission sources have been included and if the emissions data represent current conditions. Existing inventories serve as a starting point for developing lists of sources. They also should provide extensive data and support information, such as documentation of procedures and data ranges for identifying outlier

values. Simple sensitivity analyses of existing inventories can be used to prioritize categories and identify key data needs (see Section 6, *Sensitivity Analysis*, in Chapter 3 of Volume VI of the EIIP series).

The data for a new inventory may or may not be available from a previous inventory in the correct level of detail depending upon the objectives and degree of success of prior inventory efforts. Even though some data are not required in the basic inventory, an agency may find it expedient to collect additional information as part of a routine update of the inventory. If the agency anticipates the need for special data (for use in a photochemical model, for instance) it is more efficient to collect that data at the same time as the required data for the basic inventory.

Any needs or restrictions of the data management system should be identified in the planning phase and compared to the form of the information produced by the various emission estimation methods. The data management system will be used to store inventory information and to transfer the information to other users, such as photochemical modelers, so the further uses of this information should be considered. Issues of particular concern for area sources are mismatches in source identification codes, units, or levels of detail, and incompatibility between the data management system's data input formats and the format of the data generated by the area source estimation method. An example of the latter is when emissions are estimated using a computer model, but the data management system uses an emission factor and activity data.

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# 3

## EMISSION ESTIMATION APPROACHES

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Emissions from area sources are nearly always estimated using some type of calculation procedure. Direct measurement of area source emissions is hardly ever practical because of technical and cost considerations. Techniques for estimating area source emissions from ambient data or remote sensing of emissions sources are in the experimental stages of development. This section describes the methods that historically have been used to estimate area source emissions. There are four basic approaches for developing an area source emission estimate. They are: (1) extrapolation from a sample set of the sources (surveys, permit files, or other databases), (2) the material balance method, (3) mathematical models, and (4) emission factors applied to activity levels. Detailed descriptions of emission estimation methods for specific area sources are included in the following chapters of this volume.

As described in the previous section, an emission estimation approach should be chosen during the inventory planning stage and depends on inventory objectives, inventory category (Levels 1 to 4), available resources, source priority, and the available methods for a source. Information needed for choosing emission estimation approaches is:

- The inventory category (see Volume I, Chapter 2);
- The source's ranking in the prioritization scheme (see Section 2.1);
- The schedule for completing the inventory and the resources available;
- The level of detail needed (based on current or future regulations, knowledge about local differences, modeling and data storage needs, etc.); and
- Descriptions of the source categories and the methods that can be used to estimate emissions from them (chapters in this volume have this information in Section 2).

A list of decisions for choosing among area source methodologies is shown in Example 1.3-1.

Example 1.3-1

- Identify the priority sources for the inventory area;
- Assign resources based on prioritization of the sources;
- Investigate possible emission estimation methods for area sources;
  - Reject methods that obviously cannot be used (e.g., using a mathematical model or permit information for architectural surface coating).
- Compare the needs of the inventory with the information that the available methods produce;
  - The method calculates the pollutant at the required level of detail in terms of speciation, and temporal or spatial allocation; and
  - The method results reflect economic or regional differences that would affect emissions, (e.g., if the inventory area is mostly high-density housing with a lower than average per capita architectural coating use).
- Consider subcategorizing sources and using different methods for the subcategories;
  - Subcategorization of a source may allow more detailed estimation of the most significant portion of a source, and may be the most efficient way to achieve inventory goals of more accurate emission estimates, more detailed inventory information, or other quality goals that improve the estimate.
- If available methods vary in the amount of resources that they require, rank them according to the amount of resources that they need. Determine if the increase in needed resources is justified by an increase in accuracy or detail.

### 3.1 EXTRAPOLATING FROM A SAMPLE OR OTHER DATABASE

For many area sources, the EIIP preferred approach is to extrapolate from a sample set of data for the industry/activity to the entire population. This often requires a survey of a statistically valid sample set, but sometimes existing data sets can be used as a starting point. An agency may have files or databases that can be accessed for use in emissions inventory development. Permits are typically required for construction, startup, and modifications of an emission source. Permit applications generally include enough information about a potential source to describe the nature of the source and to estimate the magnitude of emissions that will result from its operations. Some permits also include source test data. These files are often used for point sources but may include information that is useful for area source estimation as well.

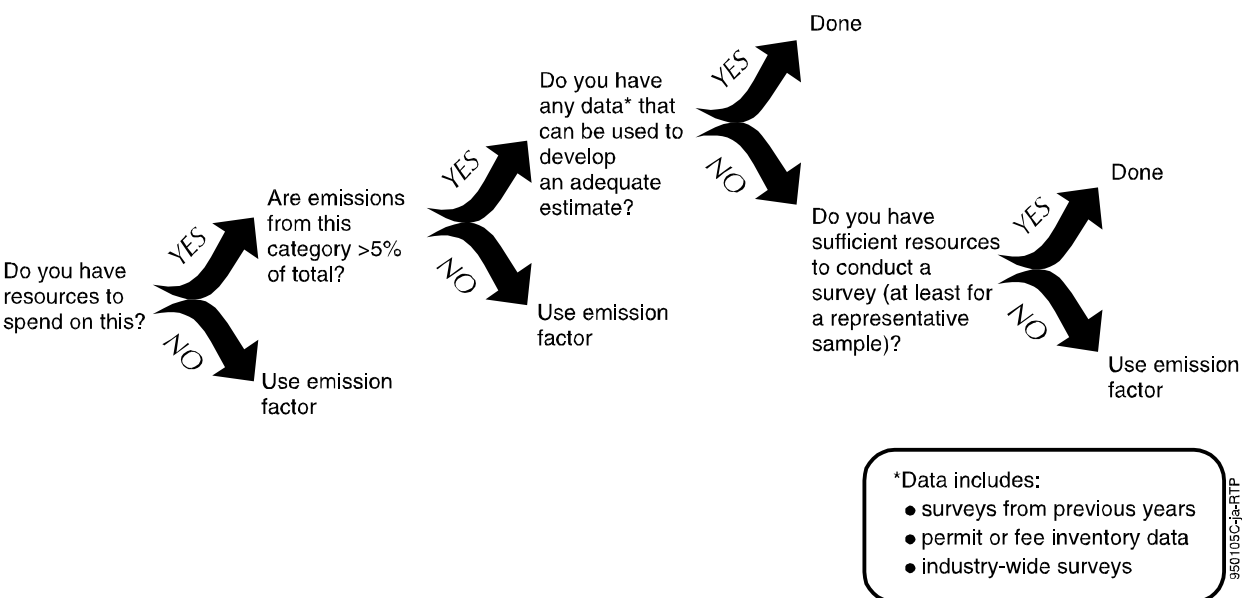
Permits for emissions of pollutants not included in a particular inventory can also be useful. Permits for emissions of air toxics may be useful to identify or characterize sources of VOCs, for example. Rules unrelated to air emissions may be useful if they require facilities to report information that could be used in the inventory. Title V permits, solid waste permits, and National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permits could be useful sources of information. A category may be subdivided to use information where available and use another approach for the remaining sources.

If an agency has previously estimated emissions based on a survey of the industry, those data can sometimes be used to estimate emissions for the newer inventory. This may be as simple as applying a growth factor to the emissions, or it may require further adjustments to account for other changes in the industry. If possible, a survey of a representative cross-section of the sources should be used to update information. For example, more sources may be controlled than were previously, new types of controls may be in use, or processes may have changed.

For some source categories, an industry-wide survey may be warranted. If the category represents a significant proportion of emissions, has the potential for further controls, or is poorly characterized by other methods, the agency should consider surveying the population of sources. If this includes a very large number of facilities, a statistically valid sampling method can be used. Figure 1.3-1 illustrates the decision-making process that might be followed to arrive at this method.

### 3.2 MATERIAL BALANCE METHOD

An agency can, in some cases, use a material balance technique to develop emission factors or total emissions for an inventory period. For some sources, a material balance is the only practical method of estimating VOC emissions; it also can be the most accurate, especially



**FIGURE 1.3-1. EXAMPLE DECISION TREE FOR CHOOSING AN ESTIMATION METHODOLOGY**

when the balance covers the entire inventory period, and the nonair losses are small or easily quantified. Source testing of low-level, intermittent, or fugitive VOC exhaust streams can be difficult, costly, and highly variable in many instances. Emissions from these and other solvent evaporation sources are most commonly determined by the use of material balances.

Use of material balances involves the examination of a process to determine whether emissions can be estimated solely upon knowledge of operating parameters, material compositions, and total material usage. The simplest material balance assumes that all solvent used in a process will evaporate to become air emissions somewhere at the facility. For instance, for many surface coating operations, it can be assumed that all of the solvent in the coating evaporates to the atmosphere during the application and drying processes. In such cases, emissions equal the amount of solvent contained in the surface coating plus any added thinners and cleanup solvents.

Material balances are greatly simplified and very accurate in cases where all of the consumed solvent is emitted to the atmosphere. But many situations exist where a portion of the evaporated solvent is captured and routed to a control device such as an afterburner (incinerator) or condenser. In these cases, the captured portion must be measured or estimated by other means and the disposition of any recovered material must be accounted for. As a second example, in degreasing operations, emissions will not equal solvent consumption if waste solvent is removed from the unit for recycling or incineration. A third example is where some fraction of the diluent (which is used to liquify cutback asphalt, for example) is believed to be retained in the substrate (pavement) rather than evaporated after application. In these examples, a method of accounting for the nonemitted solvent is required to avoid an overestimation of emissions.

Material balances cannot be accurately employed at a reasonable cost for some evaporation processes because the amount of material lost is too small to be determined accurately. As an example, applying material balances to petroleum product storage tanks is not generally feasible because the losses are too small relative to the uncertainty of any metering devices. In these cases, using emission factors or equations from EPA's *Compilation of Air Pollution Emission Factors, Volume I: Stationary Point and Area Sources*, commonly referred to as AP-42 (EPA, 1995), is recommended.

### 3.3 MATHEMATICAL MODELS

A model may be used to estimate emissions when emissions are not directly related to any one parameter. A model may be a simple equation, but is typically in the form of a computer program. This facilitates the processing of a large number of equations and interactions. Data requirements for models vary, depending on the model. Mathematical models used for predicting area source emissions attempt to reproduce the "real world"

behavior of processes that generate emissions. A model will incorporate mathematical relationships derived from experimental data and/or some statistical or advanced computational intelligence technique. Models that have been thoroughly tested and validated should be capable of estimating area source emissions to a high level of accuracy. However, when using any model, please remember that the accuracy of the results will depend on the accuracy of the data entered into the model and the suitability of the model to the particular emissions source.

Some examples of available emissions models are shown in Table 1.3-1. All of these and other emission estimation models are available through the Clearinghouse for Inventories and Emission Factors (CHIEF) electronic bulletin board service (BBS). A detailed summary of these models may also be found in Volume II, *Point Sources*, of the EIIP series. See Section 3.4.2 of this chapter for more information about CHIEF.

### 3.4 EMISSION FACTORS

One of the most useful tools available for estimating emissions from area sources is the emission factor. An emission factor is an estimate of the quantity of pollutant released to the atmosphere as a result of some activity such as combustion or industrial production, divided by the level of that activity. In most cases, emission factors are expressed simply as a single number, with the underlying assumption that a linear relationship exists between emissions and the specified activity level over the probable range of application. Thus, emission factors may be thought of as simple forms of emission models where there is a direct relationship between emissions and a single parameter.

An emission factor relates a quantity of an air pollutant to a process parameter, or a surrogate parameter, so that if the parameter is known, an estimate of emissions can be made. For example, an emission factor in the form of pounds of VOCs per ton of solvent used in a process can be used to estimate VOC emissions from a source if the weight of the solvent used is known or can be determined. In this case, the emission factor and activity are parameters for direct estimation of emissions from a source. However, area sources sometimes are not easily estimated by a direct measure of throughput. In that case, an emission factor that is based on a surrogate measure for activity level such as population or employment in an industry will need to be devised.

TABLE 1.3-1

## EMISSION ESTIMATION MODELS USEFUL FOR AREA SOURCES

Model Name	Description/Features	Contact/Reference
CHEMDAT8	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Estimates VOC emissions from TSDF processes.</li> <li>Lotus 1-2-3® spreadsheet.</li> <li>Default input parameters provided to demonstrate calculations.</li> </ul>	Elaine Manning, EPA Emissions Standards Division, (919) 541-5499
WATER8	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Estimates emissions from wastewater treatment systems.</li> <li>Menu-driven computer program.</li> </ul>	Elaine Manning, EPA Emissions Standards Division, (919) 541-5499
Landfill Air Emissions Estimation Model (LAEEM)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Estimates HAP, VOC, methane, and CO<sub>2</sub> emissions from a landfill.</li> <li>Computer model.</li> <li>Site-specific data can be entered; defaults (conservative) provided.</li> </ul>	Susan Thorneloe-Howard, EPA Air Pollution Prevention and Control Division, (919) 541-2709
TANKS, version 2.0	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Estimates organic chemical emissions from storage tanks.</li> <li>Variety of tank types included.</li> <li>User enters site-specific data; defaults provided.</li> <li>Computer model.</li> </ul>	Info CHIEF (MD-14) United States Environmental Protection Agency Research Triangle Park, NC 27711, (919) 541-5285
MECHANICAL	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Estimates fugitive PM emissions from roads, materials handling, agricultural billing, and construction/demolition.</li> </ul>	<i>Control of Open Fugitive Dust Sources</i> , EPA-450/388-008
WIND	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Estimates PM emissions from wind erosion.</li> </ul>	<i>Control of Open Fugitive Dust Sources</i> , EPA-450/388-008

### 3.4.1 EMISSION FACTOR ACCURACY

Because emission factors are typically averages obtained from data with wide ranges and varying degrees of accuracy, emissions calculated this way for a given source are likely to differ from that source's actual emissions. Because they are averages, factors will indicate higher than actual emissions for some sources and lower than actual emissions for others. Only specific source measurement can determine the actual pollutant contribution from a source under conditions existing at the time of the test. For the most accurate emissions estimate, it is recommended that source-specific data be obtained whenever possible. This is rarely possible for area sources that represent a collection of sources in an area that are usually individually small. In an area source inventory, emission factors are appropriately used to estimate the collective emissions of a number of small individual sources that would be difficult or impossible to estimate using other methods. If factors are used to predict emissions from new or proposed sources, an agency should review the latest literature and technology to determine whether such sources would likely exhibit emissions characteristics different from those of typical existing sources.

When the information used to develop an emission factor is based on national data, such as a wide range of source tests or national consumption estimates, the inventory preparer should be particularly careful with potential local variations. Emissions calculated using national emission factors may vary considerably from actual values at a specific source or within a specific geographic area. National emission factors should be used either when no locally derived factor exists, the local mix of individual sources in the category is similar to the national average, or the source is a low priority in the inventory.

A locally derived emission factor is preferred when either a national-level emission factor does not account for local variations or the category is a high priority in the area. These emission factors are developed either thorough local surveys or measurements, are based on local consumption for solvent categories, or are adapted from emission information in permits or another inventory. Typically, the information gathering necessary for developing a local emission factor can be significant, but the benefits are that the emissions for the source will be well characterized, and the emission factor or the information used to develop it can be used in subsequent inventories.

### 3.4.2 EMISSION FACTOR REFERENCES

The following emission references may also be sources for other information needed for emission calculations, like VOC speciation, source controls, rule effectiveness and rule penetration, and fuel loading. Other databases and documents that contain emission factors for use in inventories are listed in the individual source methodology chapters.

#### ***Factor Information Retrieval (FIRE) System***



The EPA's FIRE System is a consolidation of emissions estimation data (factors) for criteria and HAPs that currently includes the information contained in the EPA databases such as Crosswalk/Air Toxic Emission Factor (XATEF), the Air Emissions Species Database SPECIATE, and the AIRS Facility Subsystem (AFS), as well as emission factors from EPA documents such as *AP-42* and the EPA's Locating and Estimating (L&E) series of emission factor documents. These databases and documents are the basic sources of emission factors that have been used in the preparation of inventories, as well as economic analyses, permit preparation for Prevention of Significant Deterioration (PSD) and New Source Review applications, and other federal, state, and local agency assessments of air pollution sources.

Additional emission factors for FIRE have been collected from the literature, material balance calculations, and source tests. Each emission factor in FIRE includes information about the pollutant (Chemical Abstract Services [CAS] numbers and chemical synonyms) and about the source (SIC Codes and descriptions, and source classification codes [SCCs] and descriptions). Each emission factor includes comments about how it was developed in terms of the calculation methods and/or source conditions, as well as the references where the data were obtained. The emission factor also includes a data quality rating.

The FIRE database is divided into two main sections. One section contains all the emissions data as described above, as well as any additional data that are collected by the EPA. This section is called the "Repository Subsystem." The other section will contain only a single emission factor that is recommended for each source/pollutant combination. This section is called the "Distribution Subsystem" and is provided to users for loading onto their own computers or local area network.

The FIRE database has been designed to be very user friendly. Data can be searched in many different ways and can be downloaded to print or data files, or can be printed in a report format that is designed by the user. The FIRE database can be downloaded from the EPA's CHIEF electronic bulletin board system (see below). FIRE is also available in a compact disc read-only memory (CD-ROM) form from Air CHIEF (see below).

### **CHIEF BBS**

CHIEF is maintained by the Emission Factors and Inventory Group (EFIG) of EPA's Emissions, Monitoring and Analysis Division in Research Triangle Park, North Carolina. As a clearinghouse, CHIEF is the repository of the most up-to-date information on inventories and emission estimation data, such as emission factors. The original method of relaying this information to the public was through a newsletter. Currently, CHIEF maintains an electronic bulletin board that can be accessed through a telephone line modem, and a site on the Internet's World Wide Web.

The CHIEF BBS contains all of the *AP-42* stationary source volume and draft revisions, the SPECIATE database, and the L&E series of documents, all of which can be used as sources

of emission factors. The BBS also contains the models mentioned in this section, the MOBILE5a model, and the AFS database. The CHIEF BBS provides e-mail from other users of CHIEF and will contain more items in the future. Information about access to the CHIEF BBS can be obtained by calling (919) 541-5285.

The Internet file transfer protocol (FTP) site is available for FTP clients and through most World Wide Web browsers. Access through FTP is available through the following address: [ttnftp.rtpnc.epa.gov](http://ttnftp.rtpnc.epa.gov); access is also available through the following Internet address: <http://ttnwww.rtpnc.epa.gov>.

### ***Fax CHIEF***

Fax CHIEF provides emission calculation information through fax. Call CHIEF information at (919) 541-5285 for more information about using Fax CHIEF.

### ***Air CHIEF***

AIR CHIEF is designed to combine parts of the emission estimation information from the CHIEF BBS into CD-ROM. Currently, Air CHIEF includes some data from FIRE, the SPECIATE database, emission factors from AP-42, and the L&E documents. Copies of the Air CHIEF CD-ROM and the user's manual are available from the Emission Factor and Inventory Group, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Research Triangle Park, North Carolina 27711, (919) 541-5285; or call the CHIEF information number (919) 541-5285 for ordering instructions.

### ***AP-42***

AP-42 compiles source descriptions, process descriptions, emission factors, and control information for processes resulting in emissions from combustion, waste disposal, solvent evaporation, industry and manufacturing, agricultural operations, and miscellaneous sources. AP-42 is a primary reference for the information needed to estimate emissions.

EPA's Emission Factor Inventory Group recently released a major update and expansion of factors in AP-42, including a more detailed breakout of VOCs and other organic emissions by compound or compound class, PM, and additional factors for greenhouse gases where data are available. It is expected that this more detailed breakout of VOCs and other pollutants will better meet the needs of inventory compilers for generating speciated VOC, HAP, PM and greenhouse gas emission inventories.

A paper copy of the entire AP-42 can be ordered from the Government Printing Office (GPO), Box 371954, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania 15250-7954, Stock No. 055-000-00500-1, \$56.00 total. Telephone orders can be made to (202) 512-1800, and orders by facsimile to (202) 512-2250. AP-42 can also be found on Air CHIEF. Sections of the AP-42 can be downloaded from the CHIEF BBS and by using Fax CHIEF. EPA's EFIG develops and maintains the AP-42 series.

### 3.4.3 UPDATING EMISSION FACTORS

An updated emission factor may be needed when the rate of emissions from a source has changed relative to the activity. For instance, if industrial solvent use per employee has been reduced through the 1980s because of the substitution of water-based products, then an older employee-based emission factor will not reflect that change. The keys to developing an updated emission factor are:

- Identify the nature of the change;
- Estimate the amount of change in emissions;
- Apportion the emission factor to reflect the change, and
- Document the reasoning behind the change, the assumptions, and calculations used.

In the case of the altered solvent use Equation 1.3-1:

$$\frac{\text{New emission factor}}{\text{Old emission factor}} = \frac{\text{Current amount of solvent used in the process}}{\text{Old amount of solvent used in the process}} \quad (1.3-1)$$

### 3.4.4 EMISSION FACTOR CALCULATIONS

Part of the appeal of the emission factor method is its simplicity. To calculate emissions, the activity and emission factor are multiplied. Corrections for rule effectiveness, rule penetration, and control efficiency, and seasonal adjustments or point source emissions still need to be applied. The calculation for emissions is shown in Equation 1.3-2:

$$\text{Emissions} = \text{Activity Level} * \text{Uncontrolled Emission Factor} \quad (1.3-2)$$

# 4

## ADJUSTMENTS TO EMISSION ESTIMATES

---

In the previous section, emission estimation methods were discussed. This section presents general procedures for refining area source emissions estimates to account for point sources, emission controls, pollutant speciation, spatial and temporal allocation of emissions, and general information about projection of emissions estimates. In the simplest case of emissions estimation, area source emissions are estimated using Equation 1.3-2. In other cases, an emissions model may be used, which incorporates calculation procedures to account for some or all of the factors noted above.

Adjustments are needed to make emissions estimates reflect the local conditions that differ in some way from the average conditions on which an emission factor is based or for which an estimation model is designed. Adjustments may compensate for regional meteorologic differences or seasonal activity differences, or they may be used to weight the allocation of emissions to subdivisions of an area such as counties in a region or grid cells in a modeling domain. Emission estimates will sometimes need to be corrected to reflect emission controls or to show the effect of projected growth.

For maximum flexibility, it is desirable to perform these adjustments in separate, independent steps. This facilitates the ability to calculate emissions for different scenarios (e.g., different levels of control, different species profiles). Keeping each step separate allows one factor to be easily changed while all others are held constant. Inventory documentation also benefits from clear, discrete calculations using factors that are each well defined.

### 4.1 ACCOUNTING FOR POINT SOURCE EMISSIONS

When a point source inventory and an area source inventory estimate emissions from the same process, there is the possibility that emissions could be double counted. For example, emissions from large dry cleaning establishments may be included in the point source inventory. Emissions from small dry cleaners (below some specified cutoff) may be treated as an area source. The area source inventory must be adjusted to avoid double counting.

Certain area sources such as consumer solvent use and architectural surface coating do not require any point source adjustments, but many other source categories should at least be examined for possible double counting. Examples of area sources that may share processes with point sources are shown in Table 1.4-1.

**TABLE 1.4-1**  
**SOURCE CATEGORIES THAT MAY HAVE AREA AND POINT SOURCE**  
**CONTRIBUTIONS<sup>a</sup>**

<b>Process</b>	<b>Category Examples</b>	<b>AMS Source Category Codes</b>
<b>Fuel Combustion</b>		
	Electric Utilities	21-01-
	Industrial Fuel Combustion	21-02-
<b>Industrial Processes</b>		
	Chemicals and Allied Products	23-01-
	Metals Production	23-03- 23-04-
	Rubber and Plastics	23-08-
	Oil and Gas Production	23-10-
	Mineral Processes, Mining and Quarrying	23-25-
	Construction/Demolition	23-11-
	Machinery	23-12-
	Petroleum Refining	23-06
<b>Solvent Utilization</b>		
	Graphic Arts	24-25-
	Surface Coating	24-01-
	Dry Cleaning	24-20-
	Degreasing	24-15-

**TABLE 1.4-1****(CONTINUED)**

<b>Process</b>	<b>Category Examples</b>	<b>AMS Source Category Codes</b>
<b>Storage and Transport</b>		
	Petroleum and Petroleum Product Storage and Transport	25-01- 25-05-
	Organic Chemical Storage and Transport	25-10- 25-15-
	Inorganic Chemical Storage and Transport	25-10- 25-15-
	Rail and Tank Car Cleaning	25-**-***-900
<b>Waste Disposal, Treatment and Recovery</b>		
	Commercial and Industrial Incineration	26-01-
	Industrial and Municipal Open Burning	26-10-
	Wastewater Treatment	26-30-
	TSDFs	26-40-
	Scrap and Waste Materials	26-50-
	Landfills	26-20-
<b>Miscellaneous Sources</b>		
	Cooling Towers	28-20-
	Health Services	28-50-
	Firefighting Training	28-10-035-
	Engine Testing	28-10-040-

<sup>a</sup> Common examples based on AIRS source codes are listed. Any category could include point sources. Coordination between point and area source inventory developers is required to ensure that all sources are properly accounted for.

If the potential for double counting exists, the area source emission estimate must be adjusted. This is best done by subtracting the point source activity from the total activity as shown in Equation 1.4-1:

$$\text{Area Source Activity} = \text{Total Activity of Source Category} - \text{Sum of Point Source Activity} \quad (1.4-1)$$

From Equation 1.4-1, area source activity represents whatever activity is not accounted for as point source activity. Area source activity is estimated by subtracting out the point source activity total.

Where area source emissions are calculated using employment data, the employment at the point sources should be subtracted from the inventory region employment to give the area source employment. If the exact employment at the point sources is unknown, it can be approximated using *County Business Patterns*.<sup>a</sup> Details of this procedure are provided in the relevant area source category sections of this volume.

If the resulting area source activity is less than zero, the point source data should be reviewed for errors and any errors found should be corrected. If area source activity is still less than zero, then the area source activity is assumed to be equal to zero. The geographic area for which this adjustment is done may have an effect on the results. Subtracting state totals is less likely to produce negative results than subtracting at the county level, for example, especially if data were collected at the state level. Often, the county-level data used for each source has been allocated to counties using a surrogate. Thus, the county-level data are less reliable.

Sometimes the activities used to calculate point and area source emissions for the same category are not similar. Emissions from area sources are often estimated using surrogate activity factors, such as population, while for the comparable point sources direct measurement or direct activity applied to several emission factors may be used. The area source emission factor may also be combined with activity data in order to estimate total uncontrolled emissions (for point as well as area sources). This results in emissions estimates for total uncontrolled emissions (developed using the area source emission factor) plus the emissions calculated for the point sources using point source methods. In these cases, total and point source uncontrolled emissions can be used to estimate the contribution of uncontrolled area sources as Equation 1.4-2 shows:

$$\text{UAE}_A = \left[ \begin{array}{c} \text{Total} \\ \text{Uncontrolled} \\ \text{Emissions} \end{array} \right] - \left[ \begin{array}{c} \text{Uncontrolled} \\ \text{Point Source} \\ \text{Emissions} \end{array} \right] \quad (1.4-2)$$

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<sup>a</sup> See the most recent publication, which can be obtained from the U.S. Bureau of Census, Department of Commerce, Washington, D.C.

where:

$UAE_A$  = uncontrolled area emissions of pollutant A

Please note that this equation takes into account the difference in the level of control between area and point sources. When activity levels are adjusted for their point source components before area source emissions are calculated, it is unnecessary to subtract out point source controls.

## **4.2 CONTROL, RULE EFFECTIVENESS, AND RULE PENETRATION**

Inventories performed before 1987 assumed that regulatory programs would be implemented with full effectiveness, achieving all required or intended emissions reductions and maintaining the reduction level over time. However, experience has shown regulatory programs to be less than 100 percent effective for most source categories in most areas of the country.

Control efficiency (CE), rule effectiveness (RE), and rule penetration (RP) are applied to an area source emission estimate if regulations are in place that affect any of the individual sources within a source category. CE, RE, and RP are used to estimate the effect of controls being applied in an imperfect world. Sources that are completely uncontrolled do not have CE, RE, or RP applied.

### **4.2.1 CONTROL EFFICIENCY**

CE is the emission reduction efficiency, and is a percentage value representing the amount of a source category's emissions that are controlled by a control device, process change, or reformulation. For area sources in particular, controls can vary widely. CE values for area sources represent the weighted average control for the category.

### **4.2.2 RULE EFFECTIVENESS**

RE is an adjustment to the CE to account for failures and uncertainties that affect the actual performance of the control. For example, control equipment performance may be adversely affected by age of the equipment, lack of maintenance, or improper use. A default value of 0.80 for RE is recommended by EPA if information cannot be acquired to substantiate the true value of RE.

Although RE reflects the assumption that regulations are rarely 100 percent effective, when controls are irreversible process changes or reformulations, RE can be set to 100 percent.



RE can be developed for area sources in the following ways:

- Assume an 80 percent default value for all sources;
- Perform a survey (with EPA approval for SIP inventories) to determine a source-specific RE value; or
- Use a Stationary Source Compliance Division (SSCD) (now Office of Enforcement and Compliance) Protocol Study specific to a category and geographic area, and in accordance with SSCD procedures to calculate RE.

Alternative methods of developing RE values should be approved by the statutory authority guiding or dictating the inventory requirement.

### 4.2.3 RULE PENETRATION

RP is the percentage of the area source category that is covered by the applicable regulation or is expected to be complying to the regulation. The RP value can be based on a percentage of the source that is regulated, a cutoff level, or regulation of an activity. Both RE and RP are applied to entire source categories when calculating area source emission estimates.

RP is a measure of the extent to which a regulation covers a source category. For example, regulations on gasoline underground tank filling may apply only to stations above a specified size cutoff, or the regulation may apply to facilities built after a certain date. Rule penetration is calculated by Equation 1.4-3:

$$\text{Rule Penetration} = \frac{\text{Uncontrolled Emissions Covered by Regulation}}{\text{Total Uncontrolled Emissions}} * 100 \quad (1.4-3)$$

For example, if a rule only affects sources built since 1987 and 20 percent of the facilities have been built since that time, then RP is equal to 0.2. Default values are not feasible for RP because it is highly category- and location-dependent.

### 4.2.4 EXAMPLE SHOWING APPLICATION OF CE, RP, AND RE

Area source controls are less common than point source controls except in a few large urban areas. Area sources that are most likely to be controlled are:

- Industrial surface coating;
- Gasoline marketing (Stage I);
- Cutback asphalt use;
- Surface cleaning;
- Autobody refinishing;
- Automobile refueling (Stage II);
- Architectural surface coating;
- Open burning; and
- Printing processes.

If an area source is controlled, emissions are calculated by Equation 1.4-4:

$$CAE_A = (EF_A)(Q) [(1 - (CE)(RP)(RE))] \quad (1.4-4)$$

where:

$CAE_A$  = Controlled area source emissions of pollutant A  
 $EF_A$  = Uncontrolled emission factor for pollutant A  
 $Q$  = Category activity  
 $CE$  = % Control efficiency/100  
 $RP$  = % Rule penetration/100  
 $RE$  = % Rule effectiveness/100

Alternatively, in the case where only uncontrolled area source emissions are known, such as those where the point source correction has been made, Equation 1.4-5 can be used to calculate controlled area source emissions:

$$CAE_A = (UAE_A) [(1 - (CE)(RP)(RE)] \quad (1.4-5)$$

where:

$UAE_A$  = Uncontrolled area estimate of pollutant A

The values for RE and RP need to be known to perform these calculations.

In practice, Equations 1.4-4 and 1.4-5 are difficult to apply in some situations. CE is not always clear-cut and must sometimes be calculated. Table 1.4-2 lists example sources where special consideration is required when calculating area source VOC emissions because of difficulty determining CE and, in some cases, RP, as well. CE, RE, and RP for these source categories are discussed in their respective methodology chapters. Where CE, RE, and RP for a source category require special consideration, this is also discussed in its respective methodology chapter.

**TABLE 1.4-2**  
**EXAMPLES OF AREA VOC SOURCES REQUIRING SPECIAL**  
**CONSIDERATION WHEN CALCULATING EMISSIONS**

Special Calculation Issue	Example Sources
VOC content control device by regulation	Architectural Surface Coating Industrial Surface Coating Autobody Refinishing Commercial/Consumer Solvent Use Emulsified Asphalt Paving
Activity is banned	Cutback Asphalt Paving Open Burning
Controls reduce consumption, not emission rate	Degreasing (Surface Cleaning)
Emission factor based on control device emissions	Gasoline Stage I Marketing (Submerged Balance Fill Method) Automobile Refueling (Stage II) Landfill Flares

### 4.2.5 TEMPORAL ADJUSTMENTS

Temporal adjustments are made because of seasonal differences in the rate of emissions or activity, or to apportion emissions to a particular season, day or hour. The need to make these adjustments will be based on the needs for the particular inventory. A SIP ozone inventory, for instance, will need to have emissions either calculated for just one typical ozone season day, or have emissions corrected for the season, and apportioned for the typical ozone season day.

The best method to get the most accurate emission estimates for an inventory day or period is to directly collect the emission information or the activity data for that particular time period. Because area source inventories rarely have sufficient resources to do this detailed level of data collection, the preferred method for temporal adjustment is the one that produces the most accurate activity or adjustment factors for a source category reflecting the inventory time period and locality. If a survey is being used to collect emission or activity data, then the questionnaire can also be used to gather information about working hours and production for the inventory time period. Other less direct sources of information, such as state or national business and labor statistics, or Department of Energy statistics, may also be used, but may not reflect local variations. If no information is available that is recent or representative of local conditions, then national average adjustment factors can be used. These approaches are discussed further in the following section.

### 4.2.6 SEASONAL ACTIVITY

Source activity for many categories fluctuates on a seasonal basis. Because emissions are generally a direct function of source activity, seasonal changes in activity levels should be examined. For all categories, seasonal variations in activity must be considered if seasonal or daily emissions are to be estimated. A VOC inventory covers an ozone season typically defined as the months of June, July, and August. A carbon monoxide (CO) season will be the coldest months of the year, December, January and February. The months covered by an ozone or CO season may vary by region. Emission factors for some categories may also be dependent on seasonal variables. The type of information needed to calculate emissions depends on the source category and the desired temporal resolution of the emissions estimates.

Some operations, such as architectural surface coating, might be more active in the warmer months in some inventory regions because of the warmer weather, and may be more active because there are more hours of daylight for the activity. In some cases, a activity may take place *only* during the warmer months. On the other hand, some sources, because of summer vacation shutdowns or decreased demand for the product, may be less active during the ozone season. Such sources (e.g., residential heating), may exhibit greater activity in colder months and, thus, emissions are greater for a typical CO season. However, many sources, particularly industrial facilities, will show no strong seasonal change in activity and little adjustment will need to be made to estimate the seasonal emissions component.

An important seasonal variable is temperature. Sources such as petroleum product handling and storage operations, breathing losses from fixed-roof tanks, and loading of rail tank cars, tank trucks, and marine vessels are significantly influenced by temperature changes. Empirical formulas and reference tables can be found in *AP-42* to calculate these losses, and the TANKS model can be used to estimate emissions from fixed-roof storage tanks under varying temperatures.

There are several other source categories with emissions that are affected by variations in temperature for which temperature-dependent equations are not currently available. EPA is currently investigating methods for use in future inventories to estimate these emissions that will reflect the effects of both temperature and vapor pressure. For more information, contact the EPA Emission Factor and Inventory Group at (919) 541-4676.

#### **4.2.7 ACTIVITY DAYS PER WEEK**

If daily emissions are to be calculated, the activity days per week must be identified so they can be used in the emission equation. For most industrial sources, the number of days per week is five. For many consumer or commercial activities, six or seven days are generally used. Table 1.4-3 shows the activity days per week for some common area source categories.

#### **4.2.8 CALCULATIONS FOR TEMPORAL ADJUSTMENTS**

Seasonal or percent period throughput, discussed above, is required to calculate daily or seasonal emissions. Of course, the best situation is to obtain activity data that are specific for the season of interest.

The best way to calculate daily or seasonal emission estimates is to obtain activity data that are specific for the season of interest. However, if this is not possible, an estimate of seasonal activity can be calculated using an adjustment factor applied to the annual activity. In cases where a surrogate activity factor is used to calculate emission estimates, an adjustment factor is applied to the calculated annual emission estimates. Factors for making seasonal adjustments may be expressed as fractions, percentages, or ratios. Thus, an adjustment factor is typically expressed as:

- A fraction: seasonal activity factor (SAF) representing the amount of annual activity or emissions within a period (such as  $4/12 = 0.33$ );
- A percentage: percent period throughput, the percent value of the SAF for a period (such as  $0.33 * 100 = 33$ ); or

**TABLE 1.4-3**

**AREA SOURCE SEASONAL ACTIVITY FACTORS AND  
DAYS PER WEEK FOR THE PEAK OZONE AND CO SEASONS**

Area Source	Seasonal Activity Factors		Activity Days Per Week
	Ozone	CO	
Gasoline Service Stations			
Tank Trucks in Transit	Seasonal variations in throughput vary from region to region. Use average temperature for a summer day where appropriate.		6
Tank Truck Unloading (Stage I)			6
Vehicle Fueling (Stage II)			7
Storage Tank Breathing Losses			7
Solvent Usage			
Degreasing	0.25		6
Dry Cleaning	0.25		5
Surface Coatings			
Architectural	0.33		7
Auto Refinishing	0.25		5
Other Small Industrial	0.25		5
Graphic Arts	0.25		5
Cutback Asphalt	Refer to local regulations and practices		
Pesticides	0.33		6
Commercial/Consumer	0.25		7
Waste Management Practices			
POTWs	0.35		7

**TABLE 1.4-3****(CONTINUED)**

Area Source	Seasonal Activity Factors		Activity Days Per Week
	Ozone	CO	
Hazardous Waste TSDFs	0.30		7
Municipal Landfills	0.25		7
<b>Stationary Source Fossil Fuel Use</b>			
Residential	0.08	0.43	7
Commercial/Institutional	0.15	0.35	6
Industrial	0.25	0.25	6
<b>Solid Waste Disposal</b>			
On-site Incineration	0.25	0.25	7
Open Burning	Refer to local regulations and practices	Refer to local regulations and practices	7
<b>Structural Fires</b>	0.20	0.33	7
<b>Field/Slash/Prescribed Burning</b>	Refer to local regulations	0.10	7
<b>Wildfires</b>	Refer to local fire conditions	0.05	7

- A ratio: seasonal adjustment factor, the ratio of seasonal activity or emissions to average period activity or emissions (such as  $0.33/0.25 = 1.33$ ).

For example, if a VOC source category has one third more emissions during the 3-month ozone season than the rest of the year, the SAF would be 0.33, the percent period throughput would be 33 percent, and the seasonal adjustment factor would be 1.33. If annual estimated emissions are 2,000 tons of VOCs, the calculation for the ozone season using a SAF (0.33) would be as shown in Equation 1.4-6:

$$\begin{aligned} AE_{\text{VOC},O} &= 0.33 * 2,000 \text{ tons VOCs} \\ &= 666 \text{ tons VOCs} \end{aligned} \quad (1.4-6)$$

where:

$$AE_{\text{VOC},O} = \text{Area emissions of VOCs for ozone season}$$

The calculation using a percent period throughput factor would be quite similar as shown in Equation 1.4-7:

$$\begin{aligned} AE_{\text{VOC},O} &= 33/100 * 2,000 \text{ tons VOCs} \\ &= 666 \text{ tons VOCs} \end{aligned} \quad (1.4-7)$$

However, the calculation using the seasonal adjustment factor must take the number of months into account, as shown in Equation 1.4-8:

$$\begin{aligned} AE_{\text{VOC},O} &= 1.33 * (3/12 * 2,000 \text{ tons VOCs}) \\ &= 666 \text{ tons VOCs} \end{aligned} \quad (1.4-8)$$

Further adjustments to the emission estimate would be made to calculate a daily emission estimate. To determine daily emission estimates from facilities with uniform annual production or throughput, the Equation 1.4-9 can be used:

$$\begin{aligned} \text{Typical Annual} \\ \text{Emissions} \\ \text{per day} \end{aligned} = \frac{\begin{aligned} \text{Emissions} \\ \text{per year} \end{aligned}}{\left( \begin{aligned} \text{Operating} \\ \text{days/week} \end{aligned} \right) \left( \begin{aligned} \text{Operating} \\ \text{weeks/year} \end{aligned} \right)} \quad (1.4-9)$$

For sources that require a seasonal adjustment, seasonal daily emission estimates can be calculated as in Equation 1.4-9:

$$\begin{aligned} \text{Typical Seasonal} \\ \text{Emissions} \\ \text{per day} \end{aligned} = \frac{\begin{aligned} \text{Emissions} \\ \text{per season} \end{aligned}}{\left( \begin{aligned} \text{Operating} \\ \text{days/week} \end{aligned} \right) \left( \begin{aligned} \text{Operating} \\ \text{weeks/season} \end{aligned} \right)} \quad (1.4-10)$$

An example calculation of a peak ozone season daily emission estimate where the peak ozone season is the 3 months of summer, is shown in Equation 1.4-11:



Example:      Annual Emissions                      = 1.3 tons of VOCs  
                  SAF    = 0.28 (28 percent)  
                  Peak Ozone Season = 0.25 (25 percent or 3 months)  
                  Operating Schedule                      = 6 days per week, 52 weeks per year

$$\text{Typical Ozone Season Daily Emissions} = \frac{\left( \frac{1.3 \text{ tons}}{\text{year}} \right) \left( \frac{2,000 \text{ lb}}{\text{ton}} \right) \left( \frac{0.28}{0.25} \right)}{(6 \text{ days/week}) (52 \text{ weeks/year})} = 9.3 \text{ lb VOCs per day} \quad (1.4-11)$$

Table 1.4-3 shows default SAF values for some area source categories.

In some cases the season affects the calculation of emission factors, rather than, or in addition to, activity factors. The volatility of VOCs depends partly on temperature so that the temperature relationship must be included in emission factor calculation.

It is important to bear in mind that although temperature enters into many different calculations, the temperature used may vary depending on the source category. For gasoline distribution emission factors, the temperature of the product--not the ambient temperature--is the input variable. However, as an example, the evaporative losses from automobile gas tanks (usually included in the mobile sources) may use temperatures closer to ambient. Therefore, although some coordination of seasonal variables is needed, the values used may not necessarily be the same for all area sources in the inventory region.

If an agency wishes to develop its own SAF, it must establish the peak period (in number of months) for its area, choose the inventory year for its investigation, identify the sources within the source category under consideration, and develop an approach for collecting seasonal activity information for these sources. Approaches include questionnaires, researching more recent SAFs, or researching trade groups, or labor or economic statistics.

A questionnaire for collecting SAF information should request data for the inventory year, including annual process activity data, peak period activity data, and, if possible, the emission factor or estimate. The agency can then develop its own seasonal activity factor for the source category for any inventory season using the following equation:

$$\text{SAF} = \left[ \frac{\text{Peak Period Activity}}{\text{Annual Activity}} \right] * \left[ \frac{\text{Months of Inventory Season}}{\text{Months of Peak Activity}} \right] \quad (1.4-12)$$

This SAF can then be applied to annual activity information to estimate seasonal emissions,

just as AP-42 emissions factors are applied to estimate annual emissions. The SAF can be converted to the percent period throughput (PPT) by multiplying by 100.

A study to improve and augment existing temporal allocation factors using data from more current data sources has been completed by EPA's Office of Research and Development (EPA, 1994). This study developed new temporal allocation factors and amended previous allocation factors for a significant number of point source categories to better represent the intended source categories. Information was gathered from the literature, state and local regulatory air pollution agencies, and other government and private organizations. In many cases, source test data were used to develop the new or improved temporal allocation factors files. When the point source process and the area source category are well matched, point source factors would be suitable to use for an area source emission inventory.

The report (EPA, 1994) describes all of the available data in detail. A temporal allocation factor file, based on the results of the study, is available from the Emissions Characterization and Prevention Branch, Research Triangle Park, North Carolina (phone: [919] 541-4593). Temporal allocation factors for seasonal, weekday/Saturday/ Sunday and hourly periods are recorded for most AIRS AFS SCCs and AIRS AMS area source category codes.

These data may be used as default factors for temporal allocation when no local data are available. For the most part, the area source factors represent temporal allocation factors that were derived for the 1985 National Acid Precipitation and Assessment Program (NAPAP) national emissions inventory.

Labor and economic statistics can also be used to develop default temporal allocation factors. The statistics are published on varying temporal resolutions: seasonally, monthly, and weekly. Data may be supplemented by industry surveys for further temporal resolution to an hourly basis. The basic assumption is that operating or economic statistics are surrogate indicators of industrial processes releasing pollutants. For example, the number of hours worked by employees or the industry's production rate are assumed to be directly related to that industry's potential emissions during that time frame.

The following data sources may provide sufficient information to support development of temporal allocation factors:

- Business and labor statistics data;
- Department of Energy data pertaining to production/consumption from various energy industries;
- State source test reports;
- State stationary source operating schedule data;

- Waste-to-energy data;<sup>a</sup>
- *Business Statistics*;<sup>b</sup>
- *Employment and Earnings*;<sup>c</sup> and
- *Commodity Research Bureau Year Book*.<sup>d</sup>

### 4.3 SPATIAL ALLOCATION

Spatial allocation factors can be applied to the activity levels used to calculate emission estimates, or the emission estimates themselves. An instance when activity may need to be allocated to a smaller geographic area would be when state-level gasoline sales need to be apportioned to the county level. Spatial allocation of emissions estimates is done when the emissions need to be assigned to a more specific and smaller area. This may need to be done when using the information from a base year SIP inventory for an air quality model that needs gridded emissions data, or when activity data apply to a larger area than that needed for the inventory. The techniques for allocating activity and emissions are typically the same for a particular source category and emissions estimation method.

Area source inventories are often prepared for state or county geographical extents. In some cases, it may be desirable to allocate these emissions to smaller individual geographic areas, either subsections of a county or grid cells for use in a model. The amount of effort required to implement this resolution will vary depending on the type of source. Emissions that have been estimated by an individual facility may be reported to within a fraction of a kilometer in the existing inventory; hence, assigning emissions from these sources to the appropriate grid cell is simple.

By contrast, spatial resolution of more diffuse area source emissions requires substantially more effort. Two basic methods can be used to apportion area source emissions to grid cells. The most accurate (and resource-intensive) approach is to obtain area source activity level data directly for each grid cell. This information is possible to collect when the activity data are of a type that can be directly assigned to a specific geographic area. Examples of these

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<sup>a</sup> Found in the annual *Resource Recovery Yearbook, Directory and Guide*, Governmental Advisory Associates, Inc., New York, New York.

<sup>b</sup> Obtained from the Bureau of Economic Analysis, U.S. Department of Commerce, Washington, D.C.

<sup>c</sup> Obtained from the Bureau of Labor Statistics, U.S. Department of Labor, Washington, D.C.

<sup>d</sup> Obtained from the Commodity Research Bureau, Chicago, Illinois.

types of activity data would be population when detailed census data are available, or land use that can also be assigned to grid cells. This approach is the preferred approach, when it can be used. The alternative (and more commonly employed) approach is to apportion the county-level emissions from the existing annual inventory to grid cells using representative apportioning factors for each source type.

This latter approach requires:

- Identification of a spatial surrogate indicator of emission levels or activity such as population, census tract data, or type of land use for each grid cell that is appropriate for the source category;
  - A surrogate apportioning factor takes the place of the actual activity level, but is assumed to be a reasonable indicator of the actual activity level.
- Creation of apportioning factors based on the distribution of these spatial surrogates; and
- Application of these factors to the county-level emissions.

These steps will yield estimates of emissions from that source category by grid cell. The process can also be applied to state or regional activity or emissions to yield activity or emissions at the county or subcounty level. The major assumption underlying this method is that emissions from each area source behave spatially in the same manner as the spatial surrogate indicator. In developing spatial apportioning factors, the agency should emphasize the determination of accurate factors for the more significant sources. The purpose of the inventory and the capabilities of the agency may also need to be considered when choosing an apportioning method. For most large urban areas, local planning agencies can provide the agency with detailed land use or population data, or in some cases employment statistics at the subcounty level; these data can be used to spatially apportion most of the area source emissions in the inventory.

A Geographical Information System (GIS) can be a useful tool in handling spatially distributed data. A GIS uses sophisticated computer technology to store, retrieve, analyze, update, and display spatially arranged data (maps). This type of system can locate each point source, define the boundaries around each area source, and map road networks. Map coverages are available in digital formats from transportation departments, tax offices, planning/zoning offices, and emergency response agencies. Information stored in a GIS can be the most direct method of spatially allocating activity data and may allow the use of more detailed surrogates that would be too labor-intensive to use without a GIS. In most cases, using a GIS with good quality map coverages and well-chosen surrogates will be the

preferred spatial allocation method.

Further information about the potential applications of the GIS technologies in emissions inventory preparation can be obtained from the Air Quality Modeling Group of the EPA Office of Air Quality Planning and Standards (OAQPS) and the EPA Office of Research and Development (ORD), both in Research Triangle Park, North Carolina; local colleges or universities with geography, civil engineering, or natural sciences departments; state and local land/resource management agencies or environmental protection agencies; and private organizations that provide mapping services.

Commonly used spatial surrogate indicators include land use parameters, employment in various industrial and commercial sectors, population, and dwelling units. Different surrogate indicators may be used to apportion emissions for the various area source categories depending on which of the available indicators best describes the spatial distribution of the emissions. EPA guidance and good engineering judgment should be used to select appropriate indicators for apportioning area source emission totals. Local authorities should be contacted to verify the applicability of the source category/spatial surrogate indicator pairings for a particular inventory region.

The table in Example 1.4-1 lists example spatial allocation surrogate indicators for area source categories as utilized in various urban areas. These indicators could be used to spatially apportion emissions from these source types in the absence of more detailed or locally specific data; however, the agency should make a special effort to choose spatial surrogate indicators for the various source categories that accurately reflect the distribution of activity for those sources in the inventory region. Other references that contain useful information for developing spatial resolution for some specific source categories are:

- *Census of Business Selected Services Area Statistics* (for county-level gasoline handling source categories);<sup>a</sup> and
- *Sales of Fuel Oil and Kerosene* (for state-level commercial and institutional fuel combustion).<sup>b</sup>

Other resources, which will be addressed in detail below, include land use patterns (from maps and/or computerized databases) and Census Bureau demographic statistics by traffic zone or census tract. Planning, land use, and transportation models are already in use in many regions, and can provide the agency with much of the data necessary to allocate emissions. Local agencies and metropolitan planning organizations should always be contacted during the inventory planning process to determine what planning models are being

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<sup>a</sup> Obtained from the U. S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of the Census, Washington, D.C.

<sup>b</sup> Obtained from Mineral Industry Surveys, Bureau of Mines, Washington, D.C.

Example 1.4-1**EXAMPLE SPATIAL ALLOCATION SURROGATE INDICATORS FOR SELECTED  
AREA SOURCE CATEGORIES**

<b>Emissions Category</b>	<b>Surrogate Indicators</b>
Residential fuel combustion	Housing
Commercial/institutional fuel combustion	Urban land use
Industrial fuel combustion	Urban land use
Gasoline marketed	Population, VMT
Unpaved roads	County area, land use
Unpaved airstrips	County area, airport location
Forest wildfires	Composite forest
Managed burning--prescribed	Composite forest
Agricultural operations	Agricultural land use
Structural fires	Housing
Degreasing	Population, employment
Dry cleaning	Population, employment
Graphic arts/printing	Population, employment
Rubber and plastic manufacturing	Population, employment
Architectural coating	Population, employment
Auto body repair	Population, employment
Motor vehicle manufacturing	Population, employment
Paper coating	Population, employment
Fabricated metals	Population, employment
Machinery manufacturing	Population, employment

Example 1.4-1**(CONTINUED)**

<b>Emissions Category</b>	<b>Surrogate Indicators</b>
Furniture manufacturing	Population, employment
Flat wood products	Population, employment
Other transportation equipment manufacturing	Population, employment
Electrical equipment manufacturing	Population, employment
Ship building and repair	Water proximity, employment
Miscellaneous industrial manufacturing	Population, employment
Miscellaneous solvent use	Population, employment
Publicly owned treatment works (POTWs)	Population, employment
Cutback asphalt paving operation	Population, VMT
Fugitive emissions from synthetic organic chemical manufacturing	County area, employment
Bulk terminal and bulk plants	Population, employment
Fugitive emissions from petroleum refinery operations	Population, employment
Process emissions from bakeries	Population, employment
Process emissions from pharmaceutical manufacturing	Population, employment
Process emissions from synthetic fibers manufacturing	Population, employment
Crude oil and natural gas production fields	Population, employment
Hazardous waste treatment, storage, and disposal facilities (TSDFs)	Population, land use

utilized and how the data available from these models can be used in the emissions inventory effort. Trying to independently develop all the necessary information that should be available from local planning boards requires much redundant effort on the part of the agency. Additionally, any subsequent conclusions drawn from the inventory might likely be challenged if there is inconsistency with other information available to the public.

## 4.4 APPLYING GROWTH FACTORS FOR PROJECTIONS

General projection issues for inventories are discussed in Volume I of this series.

Area source projections can be made using local studies or surveys or through surrogate growth indicators, such as Bureau of Economic Analysis (BEA) data, to approximate the rise or fall in indicators activity. The most commonly used surrogate growth indicators are those parameters typically projected by the local metropolitan planning organization (MPO) such as population, housing, land use, and employment. Regardless of the growth indicator employed, the calculation is the same: the ratio of the value of the growth indicator in the projection year to its value in the base year is multiplied by the area source activity level in the base year to yield the projection year activity level. Example growth indicators are listed in Example 1.4-2.

The simplified equation, then, is shown as Equation 1.4-13:

$$\text{ORATE}_{\text{PY}} = \text{ORATE}_{\text{BY}} * \text{GIV}_{\text{PY}} / \text{GIV}_{\text{BY}} \quad (1.4-13)$$

where:

$\text{ORATE}_{\text{PY}}$	=	Projection year activity level
$\text{ORATE}_{\text{BY}}$	=	Base year activity level
$\text{GIV}_{\text{PY}}$	=	Projection year growth indicator value
$\text{GIV}_{\text{BY}}$	=	Base year growth indicator value

If activity is not used in emission calculations, which would be the case if base year emissions were measured directly, or material balance methods or mathematical models are used, then a growth factor reflecting the change from the base year to the projection year can be calculated with Equation 1.4-14:



Example 1.4-2**EXAMPLE GROWTH INDICATORS FOR PROJECTING EMISSIONS  
FOR AREA SOURCES**

Source	Growth Indicators	Information Sources
Gasoline marketing	Projected gasoline consumption	MOBILE fuel consumption model
Dry cleaning	Population: retail service employment	Solvent suppliers; trade associations
Degreasing (Cold cleaning)	Industrial employment	Trade associations
Architectural refinishing	Population or residential dwelling units	Local MPO
Automobile refinishing	Industrial employment	BEA
Small industrial surface coating	Industrial employment	BEA
Graphic arts	Population	State planning agencies; local MPO
Asphalt use: Paving	Consult industry	Consult state DOT and industry
Asphalt use: Roofing	Industrial employment; construction employment	Local industry representatives
Pesticide applications	Historical trends in agricultural operations	State department of agriculture; local MPO
Commercial/Consumer solvent use	Population	Local MPO; state planning agencies
POTWs	Site-specific information	State planning agencies
Hazardous waste TSDFs	State planning forecasts	State planning agencies; local MPO
Municipal solid waste landfills	State Waste Disposal Plan	Local MPO; state planning agencies

Example 1.4-2**(CONTINUED)**

Source	Growth Indicators	Information Sources
Commercial/Industrial fuel combustion	Commercial/Institutional employment; population	Local MPO; land use projections
Industrial fuel combustion	Industrial employment (SIC Code 10-14, 50-51); or industrial land use	Local MPO; land use projections; state planning agencies
Construction equipment	Industry growth (SIC Code 16)	Local MPO
On-site incineration	Based on information gathered from local regulatory agencies	Local agencies; state planning agencies; local MPO
Fires: Managed burning agricultural field burning, frost control (Orchard heaters)	Areas where these activities occur	U.S. Forest Service, state agricultural extension office
Forest wildfires	Historical average	Local, state, and federal forest management officials
Structural fires	Population	Local MPO; state planning agencies

$$GF = GIV_{PY} / GIV_{BY} \quad (1.4-14)$$

where:

GF = Growth factor  
 GIV<sub>PY</sub> = Projection year growth indicator value  
 GIV<sub>BY</sub> = Base year growth indicator value

The purpose of developing a projection inventory is to either determine the emissions reductions that will be needed to attain air quality standards or to project future compliance. In general, projection year emissions are based on base year allowable emissions, but in

certain circumstances, it may be appropriate to use base year actual emissions. For CAAA 15 percent Rate of Progress (ROP) Plans, actual emissions can be used for source categories that are currently subject to a regulation and for which the state does not anticipate subjecting the source to additional regulation, or for source categories that are currently unregulated and are not expected to be subject to future regulations.

Actual emissions are based on a source's actual operating hours, production rates, and control equipment for processes at the source. Allowable emissions are based on the expected future operating rates or throughput and maximum emissions limits. Maximum emission limits may be process-based emissions factors, capture and/or control device efficiencies, or emission rate limits. Emission factor limits and capture and/or control device efficiency limits should take precedence over emission rate limits when they are available. In determining the maximum emissions limit, existing regulations must be considered in addition to future planned regulations.

Projection Equations 4-15 through 4-18 are derived from *Guidance for Growth Factors, Projections, and Control Strategies for the 15-Percent Rate-of-Progress Plans* (EPA, 1993). Equation 1.4-15 shows the basic projection equation for area sources:

$$EMIS_{PY} = ORATE_{PY} * EMF_{PY,PC} * \left[ 1 - \left( \frac{CE_{PY}}{100} * \frac{RE_{PY}}{100} * \frac{RP_{PY}}{100} \right) \right] \quad (1.4-15)$$

where:

$EMIS_{PY}$	=	Projection year emissions
$ORATE_{PY}$	=	Projection year activity level
$EMF_{PY,PC}$	=	Projection year precontrol emission factor
$CE_{PY}$	=	Projection year control efficiency (%)
$RE_{PY}$	=	Projection year rule effectiveness (%)
$RP_{PY}$	=	Projection year rule penetration (%)

Projection year activity level ( $ORATE_{PY}$ ) is calculated using Equation 1.4-13. The precontrol emission factor ( $EMF_{PY,PC}$ ) reflects the mass of pollutant per production unit emitted before control. In this case, the control is reflected through the CE rather than through a reduced or postcontrol emission factor.

When the emission factor accounts for the control level for the projection year, use Equation 1.4-16 for projecting emission estimates:

$$EMIS_{PY} = ORATE_{PY} * EMF_{PY} * \left[ \frac{(200 - RP_{PY})}{100} \right] \quad (1.4-16)$$

where:

$EMIS_{PY}$	=	Projection year emissions
$ORATE_{PY}$	=	Projection year activity level
$EMF_{PY}$	=	Projection year emission factor
$RP_{PY}$	=	Projection year rule penetration (%)

This equation will be used for emission factor-based control measures such as solvent content limits on surface coating.

Although it is somewhat unusual for an area source, some emission estimate calculations do not involve an emission factor. This would include emission estimates developed by using a computer model or direct measurement, or through material balance methods. If the source category already is controlled, Equation 1.4-17 would be used:

$$EMIS_{PY} = EMIS_{BY} * \left[ \frac{1 - \left( \frac{CE_{PY}}{100} * \frac{RE_{PY}}{100} * \frac{RP_{PY}}{100} \right)}{1 - \left( \frac{CE_{BY}}{100} * \frac{RE_{BY}}{100} * \frac{RP_{BY}}{100} \right)} \right] * GF \quad (1.4-17)$$

where:

$EMIS_{PY}$	=	Projection year emissions
$EMIS_{BY}$	=	Base year emissions
$CE_{PY}$	=	Projection year control efficiency (%)
$RE_{PY}$	=	Projection year rule effectiveness (%)
$RP_{PY}$	=	Projection year rule penetration (%)
$CE_{BY}$	=	Base year control efficiency (%)
$RE_{BY}$	=	Base year rule effectiveness (%)
$RP_{BY}$	=	Base year rule penetration (%)
$GF$	=	Growth factor

Finally, if emissions are calculated from a material balance, direct measurements or mathematical models, and process or material changes constitute control measures. Equation 1.4-18 also is used for emission factor-based control measures such as solvent content limits on surface coating if the operating rate is unavailable:

$$EMIS_{PY} = EMIS_{BY} * \left[ \frac{(200 - RP_{PY})}{100} / \frac{(200 - RP_{BY})}{100} \right] * \frac{EMF_{PY}}{EMF_{BY}} * GF \quad (1.4-18)$$

where:

$EMIS_{PY}$	=	Projection year emissions
$EMIS_{BY}$	=	Base year emissions
$RP_{PY}$	=	Projection year rule penetration (%)
$RP_{BY}$	=	Base year rule penetration (%)
$EMF_{PY}$	=	Projection year emission factor (mass of pollutant/production unit)
$EMF_{BY}$	=	Base year actual emission factor (mass of pollutant/production unit)
GF	=	Growth factor

A major difference between making area source projections for the basic, county-wide inventory and for a detailed, photochemical inventory is that, in the latter, emission estimates must be resolved at the grid-cell level. This adds a dimension of complexity to the projection effort, since changing growth patterns may require that different apportioning factors be determined for the projection years. Fortunately, in most large urban areas where photochemical models are employed, the local MPO will be able to provide land use maps, as well as detailed zonal projections of employment, population, etc., for future years. Hence, these projections can be used directly, as described above, to determine changes in spatial emission patterns.

If the surrogate indicators used for apportioning certain area source emissions are not projected at a subcounty level, engineering judgment must be used to decide whether spatial distributions of various activities will change enough to warrant the effort of identifying new patterns. Changes may be warranted in rapidly growing areas for the more important area source emitters. For regions where little growth is expected, and especially for minor area sources, the same apportioning factors can be used in baseline and projection inventories.

# 5

## DATA COLLECTION AND MANAGEMENT

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Data management comprises data collection, data storage, and updates to the database, as well as the planning and QA/QC of the process. The collection and storage of data, particularly as it applies to area sources, is addressed in this section. The development and implementation of surveys as a data collection method merit particular attention in this section. Inventory QA/QC is addressed in Volume VI of this series, *Quality Assurance Procedures*, and in Volume I of this series, *Introduction to the EIIP*.

### 5.1 DATA COLLECTION AND STORAGE

#### 5.1.1 DATA RESOURCES

Area source inventory data can come from a number of diverse sources. Surveys and agency pollution files are methods typically used for point sources that may also be useful in collecting data for area source emissions, activity, and control data. Other commonly used area source data resources are U.S. Census Bureau documents such as *County Business Patterns*, *Census of Agriculture*, *Census of Manufactures*, and *Current Industrial Reports*; documents and reports from other federal agencies such as the Energy Information Administration (EIA); locally collected activity information, trade contacts, journals, and databases; and data compilations such as the Frost & Sullivan *Industrial Solvents* report or the *Chemical Marketing Reporter*. Accessing these types of market research reports is discussed below. Sources for inventory procedural guidance include *AP-42* and guidance manuals such as this one. Data sources for source category characterization include EPA reports such as Background Information Documents (BIDs), Control Technique Guidelines (CTG) documents, Locating and Estimating (L&E) documents, emission model manuals, Technical Support Documents (TSDs), Alternative Control Techniques (ACT) documents, and *AP-42*.

Market research reports are one source for information on the past sales of, and future trends in the use of, different products. Occasionally, these reports can be found in a business school library or large university library, but because they can be quite expensive, not many libraries collect them. On-line bibliographic utilities such as Knight Ridder's DIALOG, offer databases containing the full text of market research reports. These databases include Freedonia Market Research, BCC Market Research, and Frost & Sullivan Industrial Solvents.

Some state libraries offer on-line literature search services, and should be able to locate the information needed. If not, information brokers who do literature searches for a fee will be able to help. These services can be found in the telephone directory under the headings "Information Brokers," "Information Processing and Retrieval Systems & Services," or "Information Search and Retrieval."

Rather than purchasing an entire report, the librarian or information broker can retrieve the information needed, usually at a fraction of the cost of the whole report. On-line computer charges for the databases listed above run about \$60.00 per hour plus \$16.00 per item typed or printed out (as of July 1995).

Because charges are usually based on time spent on-line plus the per-item cost, it helps to be as precise as possible in explaining information needs to the librarian or information specialist. Some background on the context of the request (i.e., how the information is to be used) can be very useful and cost-effective.

### **5.1.2 DATA HANDLING**

Typically, the data used for area source emissions estimates are retrieved from a variety of sources. Data collection methods for area sources vary much more than those for point sources. Specific data collection methods and data sources are provided for a number of area source categories later in this volume. Often, data availability (or unavailability) determines the method that must be used to estimate emissions.

If the area source inventory is being prepared by more than one person, coordination is needed to assure consistency of activity data and to avoid duplicating effort. A table showing the area source category, estimation procedure, activity data needed, and activity data source should be prepared. Table 1.5-1 gives an example for a hypothetical ozone inventory. Note that categories may use common activity data; for example, emissions for three source categories can be calculated using population data. Where alternative sources of information exist, the preferred source of information should be identified and used consistently throughout the inventory.

All data collected, regardless of the source, should be documented and logged into a central file. In particular, information gathered over the telephone needs to be well documented in writing, including the date of the call and the names of the participants. These procedures are covered in more detail in the Volume I of this series. It is very important to begin data collection as soon as possible because obtaining data is not always straightforward. If the data are not already published, contacting the right person and then eliciting the information in the required format can take weeks or even months.

**TABLE 1.5-1****ACTIVITY DATA EXAMPLE SOURCES FOR AN OZONE INVENTORY**

Area Source Category	Estimation Procedure	Activity Data	Source of Activity Data
Commercial/Consumer Solvent Use	Per capita	Population	U.S. Census data
Architectural Surface Coating	Survey	Gallons of paint	Paint manufacturers
Gasoline Distribution	Gasoline consumption	Gallons of gasoline	State Department of Transportation (DOT), State Energy Office
Industrial Surface Coating	Per employee	Employment by SIC	State Labor Department
Surface Cleaning Operations	Per employee	Employment by SIC	State Labor Department
Dry Cleaning Operations	per employee	Employment by SIC	State Labor Department
Automobile Refinishing	Per capita	Population	U.S. Census data
Graphic Arts Facilities	Per employee	Employment by SIC	U.S. Census data
Asphalt Paving	Consumption	Barrels of asphalt	State DOT, paving contractors
Traffic Paints	Consumption	Gallons of paint	State DOT
Agricultural Pesticides Application	Application rate, acres of crops	Crop type by acre, types of pesticides	State Agriculture Office, U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA)
Commercial Bakeries	Per capita	Population	U.S. Census data



**TABLE 1.5-1****(CONTINUED)**

<b>Area Source Category</b>	<b>Estimation Procedure</b>	<b>Activity Data</b>	<b>Source of Activity Data</b>
Structure Fires	Per fire	Number of fires	Fire marshall
Municipal Landfills	Statistical models	Tons of refuse, landfill age	State Solid Waste Management Agency
Residential Fuel Combustion	Fuel use	Amount of fuel used	State Energy Office, Energy Information Administration (EIA)
Industrial Fuel Combustion	Fuel use	Amount of fuel used	State Energy Office, EIA
Commercial/Institutional Fuel Combustion	Fuel use	Amount of fuel used	State Energy Office, EIA
Petroleum Vessel Loading/Unloading	Petroleum products loaded/unloaded	Gallons of fuel	Port Authority, Waterborne Commerce
Aircraft Refueling	Aviation fuel consumption	Gallons of fuel	State Energy Office, airports
Wastewater Treatment	Surface impoundment modeling system (SIMS)	Gallons of wastewater and portions of industrial wastewater	Publicly owned treatment works (POTW) operators
Hospital Sterilizers	Per hospital bed	Hospital beds	State Health Department
Forest Fires	Acres burned	Acres burned	State Forester
Breweries	State beer production	Barrels of beer	State Commerce Office, trade groups

TABLE 1.5-1

(CONTINUED)

Area Source Category	Estimation Procedure	Activity Data	Source of Activity Data
Barge, Tank Car, Railcar, Drum Cleaning	Survey	Vessels cleaned, material cleaned out of vessels	Trade groups, drum-cleaning facilities
Medical Waste Incinerators	Survey	Waste incinerated	State Health Department
Asphalt Roofing Kettles	Per square paper	Material throughput	Trade groups
Orchard Heaters	Fuel consumption	Amount of fuel used	Extension agents, agricultural schools
Distilleries	Distilled spirits production	Barrels of spirits	State Commerce Office, trade groups
Agricultural/Slash Burning	Acres burned	Acres burned	Extension agents, agricultural schools
Wineries	Wine production	Barrels of wine	State Commerce Office, trade groups
TSDFs	Survey	Material type, material throughput, treatment type	State Environmental Office
Superfund Sites	Survey	Material type, material throughput, treatment type	State Environmental Office
Open Burning	Survey	Occurrence of burning	State Environmental Office

In addition to those staff members usually responsible for compilation and maintenance of emission inventories, the agency should enlist the services of: (1) a computer programmer or systems analyst to plan the storage and manipulation of the large amounts of emission data needed, (2) an urban or regional planner to analyze land use data from local planning agencies, and (3) a chemist familiar with the various classes of chemicals that will need to be speciated into the individual components.

### **5.1.3 DATA STORAGE**

Computerized data handling is preferable to paper files for large areas with diverse sources. Computerized data handling becomes significantly more cost-effective as the database, the variety of tabular summaries, or the number of iterative tasks increase. In these cases, the computerized inventory requires less overall time involvement and has the added advantage of forcing organization, consistency, and accuracy.

Some activities that can be performed efficiently and rapidly by computer include:

- Printing mailing lists and labels;
- Maintaining status reports and logs;
- Calculating and summarizing emissions;
- Performing error checks and other audit functions;
- Storing source, emissions, and other data;
- Sorting and selectively accessing data; and
- Generating output reports.

Phone logs, paper copies of notes, references, and other noncomputerized data should be stored in a project file that allows access by the inventory staff and safety from loss. The inventory staff should be issued notebooks that are used exclusively for the inventory preparation. These notebooks can become a useful history of the inventory process.

Additional data management concerns are discussed in the following sections.

### 5.1.4 NECESSARY DATA ELEMENTS

The data elements needed for a source category will be determined by the emission estimation method and the information requirements of the inventory. Area source category emissions calculated using an emission factor for an annual inventory will require the following:

- Category activity;
- Category emission factor;
- Control information (CE, RE, and RP);
- Point source contribution to the source category emissions;
- Unit conversion factors (possibly); and
- Other emission factor or activity-level multipliers (e.g., percentages of sulfur and ash, fuel loading, soil silt content).

Calculating seasonal emissions requires information on the seasonal activity, or seasonal adjustment factors, and daily apportioning factors. Inventories that will be used in an air quality model (modeling inventories) need to be speciated and have spatially and temporally allocated emission estimates. Required data elements for modeling inventories are discussed below.

### 5.1.5 SPECIAL ISSUES

For modeling inventories that are more detailed in terms of speciation and spatial or temporal allocation, additional data may need to be collected for assigning emissions to grid cells, for determining temporal distributions, or for selecting the appropriate speciation factors to be assigned to the compound classes. Ideally, emissions data (including speciation information) would be available for each source for each hour of any day selected. In practice, however, this degree of detail is neither necessary nor practical for all sources because of the inordinate amount of effort required to procure such data and because for many sources and applications inclusion of these data would have little effect on the end use of the data.

As a general rule, the maximum degree of source category resolution from the annual inventory should be maintained in the modeling inventory. For example, if separate emissions estimates have been prepared for dry cleaners using perchloroethylene and dry

cleaners using petroleum-based solvents, this distinction should be maintained in the modeling inventory because it will permit more accurate speciation of the emissions associated with these sources.

Some area source categories may be treated as point sources in a modeling inventory; other source categories may be represented in both the point and area source inventories depending on the emissions cutoff level used to make this distinction. The agency should be aware of all such distinctions for the existing inventory and may need to institute certain changes to ensure that the modeling inventory meets its objectives.

Projection inventories also require collection of data beyond that needed for a base-year inventory. The primary difference is the need for growth factors and indicators, which are applied to the base-year emissions, as discussed in Section 4.4 of this chapter.

## 5.2 SURVEYS

For some area source categories, a survey of a representative sample of facilities within the source category may be necessary. Although it is beyond the scope of this volume to thoroughly address survey and sample design, an area source survey introduction will be presented in this section. More information about survey methods and planning can be found in Volume I of this series. QA/QC issues are addressed in the Volume VI of this series.

The survey questionnaire is a technique commonly used by state and local agencies for gathering point source emissions inventory data, and it can also be used for gathering the information needed to make area source emissions estimates, develop local emission factors for area source categories, or collect local activity data. Using the survey method for an area source category requires the selection of an appropriate sample size and identification of subcategories and process differences within the surveyed source category. To conduct this type of data-gathering operation, the facilities to be surveyed must be identified; mailing lists must be prepared; questionnaires must be designed, assembled, and mailed or delivered; data-handling procedures must be prepared and organized; and response receiving systems must be established. See the document *Development of Questionnaires for Various Emission Inventory Uses* (Holman and Collins, 1979) for more information about questionnaires.

Another approach is to use computer media (electronic diskettes or electronic transmission) instead of paper to return or update questionnaire responses to the agency. This technique can also include the use of standardized computer forms or software so that data submitted to the agency is in a format easily handled by agency personnel. The methods chapter in this volume for consumer solvent use includes an example computerized survey.

Important points to remember during the process of conducting a survey are:

- Investigate and subdivide the source category if necessary. Many area source categories, such as degreasing and surface coating, are made up of a number

of different processes used by many different industries. Uses of particular processes can vary widely from one industry to the next;

- Consider future needs in survey form planning;
- Plan on how the information gathered through the survey should be scaled up for the entire inventory area, since the survey design will probably cover only a sample of all sources and it is unlikely that the survey distribution will have a 100 percent response rate. Identify a reasonable surrogate activity, if necessary, and plan on collecting that information in the survey;
- Aim the survey at a reasonable point in the product distribution pipeline. In the case of many solvent use categories, a survey could be sent to either manufacturers, distributors, retailers, or users, but the most practical choice might be just manufacturers or just distributors;
- Investigate the source category as an industry or as a process. Before drafting the survey form, define exactly what will be needed to estimate emissions and what is needed to categorize the responding facility, so that estimated emissions from that facility can be scaled up to the inventory area. If possible, visit a typical site to learn more about the source and to refine the survey. Telephone calls are also very useful;
- Compile distribution lists from a number of different sources, using several sources and cross-checking those sources;
- Refine the distribution list by identifying sites that not only have the SIC Code of interest, but also have the source category process of interest;
  - For example, industrial surface coating is typically associated with a number of SIC Codes, but not all of the facilities under a particular SIC Code may do any surface coating.
  - Calling a facility before sending the survey can make the distribution more efficient. It will also identify the proportion of facilities in an SIC Code that do or do not use a process, which is useful for scaling up area source survey data.
- Secure any administrative clearances needed under federal or state rules to conduct a survey of the private sector;

- Explain the reasons for the survey during the initial contact phase, whether it is by telephone or mail;
- Consider who should contact the survey recipient. Response rates for industry surveys may be higher if the state agency, not a contractor, contacts the survey recipient, all other things being equal; and
- Recognize that the survey process takes several steps. In order to identify the correct recipient at a facility, arrange convenient times for an interview and actually talk to the recipient and answer their questions about the survey questions. For example, the steps might be:
  - Contact the facility by letter or by telephone to inform them about the survey, and set up a convenient time for answering questions. Be certain that the person contacted is able to answer the survey questions;
  - Then, send the survey questions to the recipient; and
  - Place a second call to interview the recipient and obtain initial or follow-on responses to the survey questions.

### **5.2.1 PREPARING THE MAILING LIST**

A necessary step in the mail survey is the preparation of a mailing list that tabulates the name, address, and general process category of each facility to be surveyed. The basic function of the mailing list is to identify the individual facilities to which questionnaires could be sent. The size of the resulting mailing list gives an agency an indication of the numbers and types of sources that can effectively be considered within resource limitations in the area source inventory. In this regard, the mailing list can be used to help an agency determine whether the resources allocated for the compilation effort will be sufficient and provide the basic information needed to develop a sampling subset.

The correct number of samples (returned and correctly completed questionnaires) must be determined based on statistically sound sampling techniques, the priority given to the category, and the resources available. However, unless a particular industry is represented by one facility in the area, information from only one company is generally not sufficient.

#### ***Mailing List Information Sources***

The mailing list is compiled from a variety of information sources, including those noted below.

**Existing Inventories.** A recent or recently updated, well-documented, existing air emissions inventory is a good starting point. However, many existing inventories may focus on pollutants other than those needed in the inventory being prepared. Thus, certain sources that emit only one type of pollutant may not be well represented.

**Other Inventories.** In addition to emissions inventories, other environmental inventories may be useful in identifying plants in various SIC Codes. Information in the Toxic Release Inventory System (TRIS), gathered annually under the "Right-to-Know" Law of the Superfund Amendments and Reauthorization Act (SARA Title III), and facility inventories developed under Title V may be useful. The TRIS database gives plant locations and SIC Codes, as well as quantitative information on emissions of specific toxic chemicals including many solvents. Title V permits may provide specific information about area source processes taking place at a facility.

In addition, listings of water pollution sources and hazardous waste generators are maintained by state water pollution and hazardous waste agencies. These may be used to identify potential sources in various SICs.

**Air Pollution Control Agency Files.** Compliance, enforcement, permit application, or other air pollution control agency files may provide valuable information on the location and types of sources in the area of concern. These files can also be used later to cross-check certain information supplied on questionnaires.

**Other Government Agency Files.** Files maintained by labor departments and tax departments frequently aid in the preparation of the mailing list. Such files will include various state industrial directories in which companies are listed alphabetically by SIC Code and county. The information available in these files will vary from state to state. Thus, it is advisable to contact the appropriate personnel with these agencies to become familiar with which listings are available.

**Other Local Information Sources.** The following local information sources can be consulted, where available:

- Local industrial directories--A local industrial development authority may provide a current list of the sources that operate in the inventory area. These are often organized by SIC Code and provide employment data.
- *Yellow Pages*--The local telephone directory will have names, addresses, and telephone numbers of many industrial/commercial facilities that may be emissions sources. However, telephone directory areas often do not correspond to county or community boundaries.



- Manufacturers and suppliers--Firms that make or supply equipment and materials such as solvents, storage tanks, gasoline pumps, incinerators, or emissions control equipment maybe used to identify industries emitting VOCs, CO, and nitrogen oxides (NO<sub>x</sub>).

**National Publications.** The national publications listed below can be used when available. However, the information in them may be older and less accurate than local primary references.

- Dun & Bradstreet,<sup>a</sup> *Million Dollar Directory*--Companies with sales over \$1,000,000 per year are compiled by SIC code and county;
- Dun & Bradstreet,<sup>a</sup> *Middle Market Directory*--Companies with sales between \$50,000 and \$1,000,000 per year are compiled by SIC and county;
- Dun & Bradstreet,<sup>a</sup> *Industrial Directory*;
- National Business Lists--Companies are listed by SIC Code and county with information on financial strength and number of employees; and
- Trade and professional society publications--Names and addresses of members are listed along with their type of business.

### ***Mailing List Organization***

The mailing list should be organized to facilitate the necessary mailing and follow-up activities. A logical order in which to list companies is by city or county, then by SIC Code, and finally, alphabetically. Ordering the list in this manner will increase the efficiency of all subsequent data-handling tasks and will allow a quicker QC check of the list.

### ***Limiting the Size of the Mail Survey***

If more sources are identified on the mailing list than can be realistically handled with available resources, an agency should review the mailing list to reduce the number of facilities to be sent questionnaires.

One way to reduce the size of the mailout is to develop an initial estimate of emissions by facility. If the number of employees in a company is known, then an estimate of the

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<sup>a</sup> Dun & Bradstreet data can be accessed through the FACTS database on the EPA mainframe computer at the National Computing Center. Telephone (919) 541-4506 to set up an account.

emissions potential can be made using available per-employee emission factors. This will provide a rough estimate of the emissions potential of each facility, which can then be used to select a sample of facilities that represent a range of emissions to receive the questionnaire. Any bias that this selection process introduces to the returned surveys should be considered when scaling up the survey results. Another way to reduce the size of the mailout is to contact the intended recipients of the survey by telephone before mailing the survey. These brief contacts with plant managers or other appropriate employees will indicate whether the pollutant-emitting process takes place at the facility (or if the facility is even operating), and reduce the number of surveys that are sent out unnecessarily.

### **5.2.2 DESIGNING THE QUESTIONNAIRES**

A questionnaire should be prepared for each source category that is surveyed. These questionnaires can use industry-specific terminology that is familiar to those working in a particular industry, which will enhance communication, reduce confusion, and increase inventory accuracy. It may also be productive to first work with a small focus group of sources in the industry to refine and "test market" the questionnaire. Input from knowledgeable industry personnel will help to eliminate ambiguity in responses and misunderstandings about the goals of the survey. Although a survey questionnaire that is tailored to a particular industry or process has many advantages, there are also several disadvantages. One disadvantage is that designing many industry-specific questionnaires can require significant resources. Second, the returned questionnaires will have different data storage requirements because of the variations in format for different industries.

Developing a questionnaire involves identifying and writing the appropriate questions, establishing a suitable format, and developing a cover letter and instructions for filling out the questionnaire. The basic rule is to design the questionnaire for the person who will be asked to complete it. An agency should consider that the person who will complete the questionnaire may not have the benefit of a technical background in air pollution, engineering, or physical sciences. Hence, questionnaires and instructions should not require specialized technical training to be understood. Each question should be self-explanatory or accompanied by clear directions. All necessary information should be solicited on the questionnaire, thus avoiding later requests for additional data. Any additional data needed for subsequent use in a dispersion or photochemical model should also be collected at this time.

The format of the questionnaire should be as simple and functional as possible. If the data are to be stored in a computer, time will be saved by designing questionnaire format so that data entry personnel can readily enter the information directly from each questionnaire. If computerized data reporting is encouraged, agency time may be saved on data entry. The questionnaire should be well spaced for easy readability and should have sufficient space for

complete written responses. The questionnaire should be as short as possible because lengthy questionnaires can be intimidating. Also, shorter questionnaires reduce postal costs.

The ultimate use of the data should always be considered when determining the information to request on the questionnaire. Process information should also be requested, in addition to general source information such as location, ownership, and nature of business. Because activity levels, including indicators of production and fuel consumption, are generally used with emission factors to estimate emissions from most sources for which source test data are not available, appropriate activity levels must be obtained for each type of source. An effort should be made to request activity level data for the appropriate inventory year and inventory season. If data for the appropriate time period cannot be obtained, questions should be included that will collect the information needed to derive temporal adjustment factors as accurately as possible. Control device information is also helpful for determining potential emissions reductions from applying various control strategies, especially for those source categories for which CTG documents have been published.

Finally, any information that is needed to correct or adjust emissions estimates should be solicited. For example, because emissions from petroleum product storage and handling operations depend on a number of variables including temperature, tank conditions, and product vapor pressure, the questionnaire should request appropriate values for these variables. If seasonal adjustments are considered, special emphasis should be given to variables such as activity levels, temperature, and wind speed that cause seasonal emissions variations. Seasonal adjustment of emissions is discussed in Section 4.2-6 of this chapter.

Each questionnaire sent out should be accompanied by a cover letter stating the purpose of the inventory and citing any statutes that require a response from the recipient. For example, a cover letter used in an ozone inventory would include a simple explanation of the ozone problem and should relate VOCs, NO<sub>x</sub>, and CO emissions to ozone formation. If the inventory is for an ozone or CO nonattainment area, some discussion of the implications of the nonattainment designation is advisable. Cooperation in filling out and returning the questionnaire should be respectfully requested. In addition, each questionnaire should be accompanied by a set of general procedures and instructions telling the recipient how the questionnaire should be completed and the date it should be returned to the agency. In lieu of a specific reply date, a specific number of calendar or working days in which to respond can be indicated. In this manner, delays in mailouts will not require changing the reply date.

If a more general questionnaire is sent out, the instructions should carefully explain that the questionnaire has been designed for a variety of operations and that some questions or sections of the questionnaire may not apply to a particular facility. In all cases, a contact name, telephone number, and mailing address should be supplied in case a recipient has questions. The establishment of a toll-free "800" number has been successful in some States in handling questions. The cover letter and instructions can be combined in some cases, but

this should only be done when the instructions are brief.

When a survey is presented as a preferred or alternative method in this document, an example survey form will be included in a description of the method. Before adopting any of the example questionnaires, an agency should carefully consider the objectives of the inventory in an air pollution control program, and should then determine whether the data supplied in response to these questionnaires will meet these objectives.

### **5.2.3 MAILING AND TRACKING THE QUESTIONNAIRES**

After the final mailing list has been compiled and the appropriate questionnaire packages are assembled (including mailing label, cover letter, instructions, questionnaires, and self-addressed stamped return envelope), an agency should proceed with the mailout activities. The mailing of the questionnaires can be performed in two ways. The first method is by registered mail, which serves to inform the agency when a questionnaire is received. This does not guarantee that the form will be returned but the response rate will probably be somewhat greater than if the questionnaires are sent by first-class mail. However, the slight increase in response may not justify the added expense of using registered mail. As a compromise, registered mail may be used to contact only larger sources.

The second method is to send the questionnaires by conventional first class mail. This method has proven to be effective if the mailing address includes the name of the plant manager or if "ATTENTION PLANT MANAGER" is printed on the outside of the envelope. This directs the envelope to the proper supervisory personnel and reduces the chances of the questionnaire package being discarded. It is highly recommended that a postage-paid return envelope be included with each questionnaire because the questionnaire is then more likely to be returned.

Incorrect mailing addresses result in a large number of unreturned questionnaires; therefore, the extra effort applied to obtaining correct addresses will be rewarded. Also, it is important to distinguish between facility physical location and mailing address. Identifying the mailing address can have a critical effect on the questionnaire response rate.

Responses may begin arriving within a few days after mailing. Many of the early returns may be from companies that are not sources of emissions. Also, some of the questionnaires will be returned to an agency by the postal service because either the establishments are out of business or the company is no longer at the indicated mailing address. New addresses for companies that have moved can be obtained by calling the establishments, looking up their addresses in the telephone book, or contacting an appropriate state or local agency such as the tax or labor departments.

A simple computer program can be helpful in mailing and logging in the questionnaires.

Such a program should be designed to produce a number of duplicate mailing labels for each source sent a questionnaire. One label is attached to the outside of the envelope containing the questionnaire materials. A second label is attached to the cover letter or instruction sheet of the questionnaire. This facilitates the identification of the questionnaires as they are returned, as well as name and mailing address corrections. Additional mailing labels may be used for other administrative purposes or to recontact those sources whose responses are inadequate. Information for an example label is shown below:

0000 (SIC Code)  
0000 (FINDS Number)

INDIVIDUAL'S NAME and TITLE (or PLANT MANAGER)  
COMPANY NAME  
STREET  
CITY, STATE, ZIP CODE

As shown in the example label, it may be helpful to print the SIC Code and the assigned facility identification number (FINDS number) on the upper-right corner of the labels. The ID number can be used to keep together records of all correspondence with one company. If the study area is large, a county identification number may also be included on the mailing label. Be careful to separate the internal coding information from the address so that the post office does not confuse these items with the address.

It is important to develop a tracking system to determine the status of each facet of the mail survey. Such a tracking system should tell an agency: (1) to which companies questionnaires were mailed; (2) the dates the questionnaires were mailed and returned; (3) corrected name, address, and SIC information; (4) information on the type of the source; (5) whether recontacting is necessary; and (6) the status of the follow-up contact effort. Tracking can be accomplished manually through the use of worksheets or through the use of a simple computer program. A computer printout of the mailing list can be formatted for use as a tracking worksheet.

As soon as the questionnaires are returned, some useful analyses can be performed. One activity that can help enhance the timely completion of the mail survey as well as assist in estimating the amount of resources that will be subsequently needed in the inventory effort, is to classify each response by pollutant in one of the five categories listed below:

P = point source  
A = area source  
N = no emissions (non-source)  
C = closed/out of business

R = recontact for reclassification

In addition, an agency can begin performing emissions calculations for sources that have responded, and the resulting source and emissions information can begin to be entered into the inventory files. All responses should then be filed by SIC Code, source category, geographic location, alphabetical order, or any other criteria that provide orderly access for additional analysis.

#### **5.2.4 RECONTACTING SURVEY RECIPIENTS**

The agency may have to recontact a company if it does not return the questionnaire or if the response provided was inadequate. When the number of companies to be recontacted is small, the information can be obtained through telephone contacts or plant visits. If a company refuses to complete the questionnaire, the agency may take legal action to force a response or estimate a crude emissions level based on activity levels or number of employees.

Recontacting activities should begin 2 to 4 weeks after the questionnaires are mailed. Telephone calls are advantageous when recontacting companies because direct verbal communication is involved and additional mailing costs can be avoided. A second follow-up mailing may be necessary if a large number of companies must be recontacted. In either case, follow-up efforts should be completed 8 to 12 weeks after the first mailing.

#### **5.2.5 ACCESSING AGENCY AIR POLLUTION FILES**

An agency may have special files or databases that can be accessed for use in emissions inventory development. These files may include permit files, compliance files, or emissions statements. Permits are typically required for construction, startup, modifications, and continuing operation of an emissions source. Permit applications generally include enough information about a potential source to describe the nature of the source and to estimate the magnitude of emissions that will result from its operations. Some permits also include source test data.

Some agencies may also maintain a compliance file that records the agency's dealing with each source on enforcement matters. For example, a compliance file might contain a list of air pollution regulations applicable to a given source, a history of contacts made with that source on enforcement matters, and an agreed-upon schedule for the source to effect some sort of control measures.

Using permit files as a source of data for area sources must be approached with caution. Permitted facilities are usually larger than the facilities treated as area sources. Permit data should not be used to create emission factors or to extrapolate other variables if the data

cannot be shown to be representative of the area sources. But even if the information cannot be used to estimate emissions, it may help identify key processes and emission units at these facilities that will help focus on the survey questions. Also, the permit data may be used to estimate variability in the emission rates among units; this measure is needed to determine a statistically valid sample size.

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## INVENTORY QUALITY AND UNCERTAINTY

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The EIIP QA guidance stresses the importance of distinguishing between data quality and uncertainty. Area source emissions estimates tend to be more uncertain than point sources; given this, the data quality can (and should) be high. Inventory data quality is specified in the data quality objectives (DQOs), and is attained by following a prescribed set of QC and QA activities. The details of developing DQOs and QA plans, and QA/QC methods are covered in Volume VI of this series.

### 6.1 QA/QC DATA VERIFICATION PROCEDURES FOR AREA SOURCE INVENTORIES

In this section, some QA/QC issues particularly relevant to area sources are discussed. In general, QA/QC procedures for an area source inventory involves (1) data verification to ensure that the information being used is complete, accurate, and current and produces reasonable estimates; (2) checks of data entry to minimize transcription errors when data are entered into an electronic format, and (3) calculation checks to verify that arithmetic errors were not made.

Data verification involves the use of QA procedures at critical stages in the inventory development to ensure that completeness, consistency, double counting, and reasonableness evaluations are conducted. The procedures usually are facilitated by using checklists (see Figure 1.6-1). The QA procedures also should be described in the inventory report. Data validation procedures can be implemented manually or electronically. The QA Plan should state how and when these will be used during the inventory process.

#### ***Completeness Checks***

Completeness checks are designed to ensure that all emission sources have been represented in the inventory. Manual completeness checks may include comparing the agency's list of area sources with the area source categories shown in Section 2 of this chapter, or comparing with independent listings (local business directories) of facilities by source category to ensure that all the significant types of sources in the metropolitan statistical area (MSA) are included.



Inventory Identification \_\_\_\_\_  
 Assessed By \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Provide the information requested along with the corresponding resource document [ref] or data. After completing the checklist, indicate the actions to be taken, deadline for completion, and date the actions are completed.

**SOURCE CATEGORY:**

Defined before data collection? [ref] _____	Yes	No
Were definitions adhered to during data collection?	Yes	No
Inclusive of all listed pollutants? [ref] _____	Yes	No
_____		

**POINT SOURCE CUTOFFS:**

Identified during data collection? [ref] _____	Yes	No
Documented and reported to people involved in area source inventory?	Yes	No
_____		
Report ID _____	Date _____	

**SURVEY RESULTS:**

Was the response rate determined? _____	Yes	No
rate		
Was the percentage of missing information per returned survey estimated?	Yes	No
_____		
percent		

**EMISSIONS CALCULATIONS VERIFICATIONS:**

Were nonreactive VOC emissions excluded from each source category emissions estimates? [ref] _____	Yes	No
EPA recommended estimation methodology used?	Yes	No
_____		
_____		
_____		

**FIGURE 1.6-1. INTERNAL SOURCE CATEGORY CONSISTENCY AND ACCURACY CONTROL CHECKS**

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Emissions calculations checked? _____	Yes	No
checked by _____ date _____		
Are equations explicitly shown? [ref] _____	Yes	No

**REASONABLENESS CHECKS:**

Were magnitudes of calculated emissions compared with other source categories? Identify second source reference or reference location of data in file. [ref] _____	Yes	No
Were magnitudes compared with national/state ranks of source categories? _____	Yes	No
_____ compared by _____ date _____		
Were other inventories and/or national averages compared to AIRS? List other inventories or reference data in master file.	Yes	No
Were findings reported and documented? _____	Yes	No

**SOURCE DATA:**

Were area source activity data reliability verified using available data sources? _____	Yes	No
verified by _____ date _____		
Are emissions factor sources documented? _____	Yes	No
where _____		
Are local emission factors within national range? [ref] _____	Yes	No
Were facilities whose emissions and activity levels are known compared against generic emission factors to check emission factor reasonableness? _____	Yes	No
compared by _____ date _____ project file no. _____		
Are assumptions documented for scaling-up source category emissions and seasonal adjustment factor corrections? [ref] _____	Yes	No
Were point sources subtracted from area source emissions estimates? [ref] _____	Yes	No
Are point source corrections to area source emission estimates documented in the category calculations? [ref] _____	Yes	No

Use the worksheet on page 3 of 3 to record the actions to be taken in response to any problems found. Set a deadline for the completion of the action and indicate when the actions are implemented.

**FIGURE 1.6-1. (CONTINUED)**

INTERNAL SOURCE CATEGORY CONSISTENCY  
AND ACCURACY QUALITY CONTROL CHECKS (Continued)

[illegible]

**FIGURE 1.6-1. (CONTINUED)**

### **Consistency Checks**

Consistency checks for data should also be implemented by the agency. Figure 1.6-1 is an example inventory consistency and accuracy checklist. These example consistency checks for a VOC inventory are designed to ensure that: (1) the same geographic area was used for all source categories; (2) only reactive VOCs were counted in the inventory; (3) potential double counting of point and area source categories was taken into consideration; and (4) the use of emission factors, units of measurement, year(s) of data and information, and apportioning and distribution techniques were consistent. The agency's plan to implement these checks should be included in the QA Plan.

### **Double Counting**

An important data verification step is to ensure that double counting of emissions does not occur in the inventory. Double counting can occur because of overlaps between point and area source inventories, and overlaps in area source groups. Inventory preparers should compare their lists of point and area emission sources to see if any emission sources have been inventoried under both point and area inventory tasks. If the emissions from a process at a facility are included in both the point and area inventories, then the area source inventory should be adjusted downward to exclude the emissions calculated for this facility's process in the point source inventory.

Overlaps in area source calculations can be minimized by careful definition of the emission sources covered by each grouping, and an understanding of the processes that take place at a source. For example, a category whose emissions are estimated using material balance may account for 100 percent of the solvent used by a facility. However, some of the solvent may actually be disposed of in wastewater and as solid waste in a landfill. Emissions estimated from the wastewater and landfill categories, then, would include a double counting of the emissions from these solvents.

Further discussion of the correction for double counting can be found in Section 4, *Adjustments to Emission Estimates*, of this chapter.

### **Reasonableness**

The data obtained or calculated for the inventory also should be checked for reasonableness. Reasonableness checks--which should not be confused with consistency checks--are needed to ensure individual data element values and emission estimates fall within reasonable or acceptable ranges. The primary method to check for reasonableness is the comparison of the data collected with that from similar inventories or inventories from previous years.

The following questions should be considered by agency staff members, peer reviewers, and QA personnel to ensure that all data provided are reasonable:

- Were the data representative of the region being inventoried?
- Is the information up to date? If not, can reliable adjustment factors be found?
- Are data from an appropriate time frame used (e.g., annual, or CO and ozone seasons)?
- Are the collection techniques documented?

### **Data Entry Errors**

Once the data are in the inventory format, individual data elements should be checked for data entry errors. Error checks can be random checks of a small percentage of the entries, with a higher percentage of checks being made if errors are found. All entries should be subject to error checks. Errors to check for will include missing entries, typographical errors, and misassignment of codes.

## **6.2 QA/QC FOR INVENTORY CALCULATIONS**

Calculations should be done with computerized spreadsheets as much as possible to reduce errors. If handwritten calculations are necessary, they should be performed on worksheets or in project notebooks. Calculations should be peer reviewed for accuracy and checked to ensure that all emission and activity factors are used correctly. The agency should identify in the QA Plan (see Section 2, *Inventory Planning*) how the following QC steps will be ensured and who will perform the QA audits:

- Equations are accurately used and are consistent within each method or procedure; if not consistent, a justification is provided;
- Assumptions and engineering judgments used in the calculations are documented and reviewed;
- Correct units are used and unit conversions are accurate;
- Calculations are reviewed for data entry problems, such as transposition of digits and entering of incorrect numbers into calculators or computers;

- Procedures used to record calculations are consistent; and
- Misinterpretation of either the emission factors or their use is not done.

Random selection and duplication of calculations should be an integral part of the QC evaluations. The number or percentage of calculations that should be checked depend on the difficulty and importance of the source and the DQOs. If significant errors are found, the number of checks should be increased. In addition, the process used to derive the calculations should be checked. The frequency of these checks will depend on staff experience, staff size, inventory size, etc.

Another QA audit procedure for calculations is to check that all assumptions and engineering judgments used in the calculations are recorded in the project notebooks. The notebooks should contain all of the calculations used to develop the inventory and should contain the references for the data sources. The auditor should be able to perform QC checks on the calculations solely from the information recorded. If the data are calculated using computers, a hard copy of the program or algorithms used for all calculations and input files should be maintained in the project files.

The use of a computerized system for calculations can facilitate the QA process by assisting in inventory submittal tracking, edit checking, and data and calculation review. Chapter 3, Section 5, of EIIP Volume VI, describes some automated checks and audit tools that can be built-in to spreadsheets or database programs. The CHIEF BBS should be checked periodically for new QA information or software.

## 6.3 UNCERTAINTY IN AREA SOURCE INVENTORIES

Area source emissions are generally held to be highly uncertain and less accurate than point source emission estimates. While both criticisms are somewhat warranted, they are probably overstated in many cases. The first step towards reducing the uncertainty associated with area source emissions is to understand the causes of variability and inaccuracies in area source emission estimates. As this discussion indicates, although some uncertainty is unavoidable in area sources inventories, it can be minimized.

To better understand the sources of uncertainty in area source emissions, it is necessary to identify uncertainties associated with specific aspects of the estimation methods. Basically, three general forms of uncertainty are potentially applicable: variability, parameter uncertainty, and model uncertainty. Table 1.6-1 summarizes the discussion and provides examples of each type of uncertainty. More information on uncertainty can be found in EIIP Volume VI, Chapter 4, *Evaluating the Uncertainty of Emission Estimates*.

**TABLE 1.6-1****SOURCES OF UNCERTAINTY IN AREA SOURCE EMISSION ESTIMATES**

<b>Source of Uncertainty</b>	<b>Examples</b>	<b>Ways to Minimize</b>
Variability	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Fluctuation in VOC emissions for pesticide use caused by environmental conditions.</li> <li>• Daily/weekly variations in activity (dry cleaner, commercial fuel combustion, individual surface coating, etc.).</li> <li>• Seasonal variability in activity (residential fuel combustion).</li> <li>• Process or activities included in the category are not uniform (e.g., product formulations vary).</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Quantify variability if possible.</li> <li>• Make sure averaging time of emission factor and activity are appropriate for temporal scale of inventory.</li> <li>• If possible, subdivide category to create more uniform subcategories.</li> </ul>
Parameter Uncertainty		
Measurement errors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Incorrect response on a survey form.</li> <li>• Misclassification of data (e.g., facility in SIC Code group that does not accurately define activities).</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• QA audits of survey data.</li> </ul>
Sampling error	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Inadequate sample size.</li> <li>• Underlying data not normally distributed.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ensure adequate sample size by increasing response rate or increasing distribution of survey.</li> <li>• Consider distribution of data in sample design and statistical analysis.</li> </ul>

**TABLE 1.6-1****(CONTINUED)**

Source of Uncertainty	Examples	Ways to Minimize
Systematic error	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Inherent bias in a survey (for example, if only largest facilities are surveyed and they do not reflect activities at smaller facilities).</li> <li>Incorrect assumption (such as assuming 100% compliance with rules and ignoring rule effectiveness).</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>External review of methods and assumptions by a qualified expert on the industry.</li> <li>Make sure that characteristics of source population are understood and accounted for in methods.</li> </ul>
Model Uncertainty		
Surrogate variables	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Use of population or number of employees as surrogate for emission activities that do not correlate to those surrogates.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Use surveys of local sources instead.</li> <li>Develop emission factors based on statistically correlated surrogate.</li> </ul>
Exclusion of variables/model oversimplification	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Potentially a problem for area source estimates based on emission factors or models.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Validate model for specific use if possible (i.e., use model to predict a known value).</li> <li>Avoid use of oversimplified methods if at all possible.</li> </ul>



## 6.4 VARIABILITY

Uncertainty is often equated with variability, which is the natural fluctuation in the value of a variable. These are nonrandom fluctuations although they may appear random if the causal mechanisms are unknown. Emissions due to the application of pesticides, for example, are highly variable. They are affected by the volatility of the solvents in the pesticide, meteorological conditions, the amount of vegetation sprayed, and the effect of biological organisms (some of which metabolize the pesticide). Pesticide use and other area sources that are affected by biological or other environmental processes are extreme examples of variable sources. However, most sources show some sort of temporal variation because of variability in activity patterns. For example, residential fuel consumption is higher in the winter than in the summer. Commercial or industrial activity may be greater on weekdays than on weekends.

Preferred area source methods should minimize uncertainty due to variability whenever possible. For most sources, the main source variability is in the temporal fluctuations in activity, and is usually greatest on a daily or weekly basis (e.g., weekday versus weekend activity rates). Some sources vary significantly between years, particularly if they are driven by extreme events (spills, for example).

Good area source inventories will minimize the uncertainty due to temporal variability by assuring that factors and activity data match the scale of the inventory. If factors or activity have to be scaled up or down, adjustments must be made that account for temporal variability. Similarly, any other adjustments to the calculation to account for variability should be made.

## 6.5 PARAMETER UNCERTAINTY

Parameter uncertainty is caused by three types of errors: measurement errors, sampling errors, and systematic errors (nonrandom errors). Measurement errors occur because of the imprecision of the instrument or method used to measure the parameters of interest. Where emissions are measured directly, the measurement error of a particular method is usually known; EPA typically uses the concept of relative accuracy to describe the performance of a measurement method (or device) with respect to a EPA Reference Method. A more common measurement error for area sources occurs from misclassification. For example, area source categories are frequently identified by SIC Code group, and the number of employees or facilities in a particular SIC group are used as the activity data. However, some SIC groups encompass a wide variety of industrial processes and activities, not all of which are emissions sources. For example, the number of office workers at one plant may cause emission estimates to be too high if the emissions are estimated using a per employee factor. This can be a problem even when a survey is used if the sample design does not account for

subpopulations adequately. In addition, facilities are sometimes listed under an incorrect SIC Code or more than one SIC Code may apply. Any of these errors results in misclassification of data and adds to uncertainty about the emissions estimates.

Sampling error is an important factor when one or more of the parameters (i.e., activity, factors, or emissions) are to be estimated from a sample of the population. Although most people recognize the importance of an adequate sample size, obtaining an adequate sample size is often not feasible. Furthermore, sample data are usually used to estimate a mean value from which the population total is extrapolated. This approach assumes that the underlying data are normally distributed--an assumption that is often violated. Again, sampling error can be minimized if proper statistical approaches are used, quality assurance procedures are followed, and sample sizes are adequate and properly obtained.

Systematic (or nonrandom) errors are the most problematic sources of parameter uncertainty because they are the most difficult to detect and reduce. They occur primarily because of an inherent flaw in the data-gathering process or in the assumptions used to estimate emissions. A common way that this happens is if the population to be sampled is not well-defined, and a sample (thought to be random) is actually nonrandom. This is a fairly common problem for certain types of industries. Take, for example, a local survey of solvent use by autobody refinishing shops. One approach would be to develop a list of facilities from business registrations, or other state/local business listings. However, this industry has a very large number of "backyard" operations that are not identified in these official lists. Therefore, any sample that did not recognize this fact would have systematic sampling errors. A solution in this case is to identify retailers or suppliers for the industry.

## **6.6 MODEL UNCERTAINTY**

This type of uncertainty applies to nearly all area sources. A model is a simplified representation of reality. The simplest type of model uses activity multiplied by an emission factor to estimate emissions. More complex computer models such as the Landfill Air Emissions Estimation Model (LAEEM) and the Surface Impoundment Modeling System (SIMS) are also used to estimate emissions. Model uncertainty stems from the use of surrogate variables, exclusion of variables, and oversimplification of processes.

The use of surrogate variables is common in area source methods where population or the number of employees are used as surrogates for emission activities. The uncertainty in using these surrogates is especially high when emissions for a small region (i.e., county or smaller area) are estimated using a national average factor. Local variations in activity are not necessarily accounted for by using population or employment as an activity, and emissions. A common example is found in large cities that have the corporate headquarters for an industry. The number of employees may be high, but all of the manufacturing may be

occurring in other areas.

Per capita emission factors are often an oversimplification of emission processes. An example would be an emission factor developed from national solvent use figures and material balance. If this type of factor is used, recognize that issues like a correspondence between emissions and population or disposal of the product may not have been addressed.

This discussion of uncertainty in area source emissions is by no means exhaustive. More details are provided in the specific area source chapters. EIIP has encouraged the reduction in uncertainty by recommending methods better than per capita or per employee factors wherever possible. Unfortunately, this is not always practical. It is important that inventory preparers recognize the sources of uncertainty, quantify it, and reduce it as much as is practical.

## REFERENCES

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